Weekly Compilation of

Presidential Documents

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Editor's Note: The President was at Camp David, MD, on May 10, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages, and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

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Proclamation 7553—To Restore Nondiscriminatory Trade Treatment (Normal Trade Relations Treatment) to the Products of Afghanistan

May 3, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

1. Section 118(a)(1) of Public Law 99–190, 99 Stat. 1319, authorized the President to deny nondiscriminatory trade treatment to the products of Afghanistan and thereby cause such products to be subject to the rate of duty in column 2 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS).

2. Presidential Proclamation 5437 of January 31, 1986, modified the HTS so as to deny nondiscriminatory trade treatment to the products of Afghanistan.

3. Restoration of nondiscriminatory trade treatment will support U.S. efforts to normalize relations with Afghanistan and facilitate increased trade with the United States, which could contribute to economic growth and assist Afghanistan in rebuilding its economy.

4. Pursuant to section 118(c)(1) of Public Law 99–190, I have determined that it is appropriate to restore nondiscriminatory trade treatment to the products of Afghanistan and thereby cause such products to be subject to the applicable rate of duty in column 1 of the HTS.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, acting under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including section 118 of Public Law 99–190, and section 604 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2483), do hereby proclaim that:

(1) Nondiscriminatory trade treatment (normal trade relations treatment) shall be restored to the products of Afghanistan;

(2) General note 3(b) of the HTS is modified to exclude Afghanistan; and

(3) The restoration of nondiscriminatory trade treatment and the modification to general note 3(b) of the HTS shall be effective with respect to goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the thirtieth day after the date of publication of this proclamation in the *Federal Register*.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this third day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 6, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on May 7. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Message to the Congress on the Restoration of Normal Trade Relations Treatment to the Products of Afghanistan

May 3, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

Public Law 99–190, 99 Stat. 1319, which took effect on December 19, 1985, authorized the President to deny normal trade relations (NTR) tariff treatment to the products of Afghanistan. On January 31, 1986, President Reagan issued a proclamation denying NTR treatment to Afghanistan.

I have determined that it is appropriate to restore NTR treatment to the products of Afghanistan. Restoration of NTR treatment will support U.S. efforts to normalize relations with Afghanistan and facilitate increased trade with the United States, which could contribute to economic growth and assist Afghanistan in rebuilding its economy. Therefore, in accordance with section 118 of

Public Law 99–190, I hereby provide notice that I have issued the attached proclamation restoring NTR tariff treatment to the products of Afghanistan. The Proclamation shall take effect 30 days after it is published in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 3, 2002.

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain and an Exchange With Reporters at Camp David, Maryland

May 3, 2002

President Bush. Laura and I are honored to welcome our friend the President and First Lady of *España* to Camp David. It's an opportunity for us to share some private time together, to talk about issues of concern between our countries as well as opportunities we can have to work together for world peace. We've got great relations with Spain; Spain is a very close friend. And I've got good—very strong personal relations with Jose Maria.

So it's such an honor to welcome you here, *Señor Presidente*. And it's great to see the First Lady as well.

Quiere habla?

[*At this point, President Aznar made brief remarks in Spanish, and no translation was provided.*]

President Bush. A couple of questions.

Russia-U.S. Nuclear Arms Agreement

Q. Mr. President, the Russian Foreign Minister today, after he left the meeting with you today, said there's a very high probability for a U.S.-Russian nuclear deal in time for your trip. Do you think prospects are that good for an agreement?

President Bush. *Espero que sí.* I hope so. We've been spending a lot of time with Russia to reach an agreement that will codify that which I've told our country and told Mr. Putin—that we're going to substantially reduce our offensive nuclear weapons. I hope so. It's—the Secretary of State is optimistic. There's some work that remains to be done. I'm looking forward to my trip. I look forward to getting—to continue working closely with President Putin. Jose Maria has got the same intentions. And what's interesting is, right after I leave, *el va a* Russia to visit with Mr. Putin as well.

Upcoming Meetings With Middle East Leaders

Q. Mr. President, on Tuesday you will meet with Prime Minister Sharon. It will be the fifth meeting. You've talked to him a number of times on the phone. And people might say this weekend showed what a difference that makes. But you haven't really interacted with Chairman Arafat as much, and I wondered about that. Do you feel as though it really wouldn't make that big a difference? Or is there a strategic reason for not engaging him?

President Bush. I'm looking forward to my meeting with Prime Minister Sharon. I'm looking forward to my meeting with King Abdullah. We have got, obviously, a lot of activity, a lot of discussions, a lot of interface with the different people in the region, the different interested parties. And there's going to be a lot more discussion going on.

As you know, Secretary of State Powell talked about a ministerial meeting. It's just a series of ongoing discussions to help solidify the visions that have been expressed by not only the United States but the Europeans—but, more importantly, the visions expressed by Israel, the Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia. And so there's going to be a lot of discussions and a lot of meetings. And I've had a lot already, and I'm going to have more.

Unemployment Rate

Q. The unemployment rate today, 6 percent—is that just a bump in the road, or is that a sign of some reversal?

President Bush. No, that's—listen, I've been saying all along that the growth number of the first quarter of this year was very positive, but I said—listen, I'm not confident;

we've got more work to do. So long as anybody is looking for work, we've got a problem, as far as I'm concerned. And that number shows that—backs me up.

We need long-term growth, and that's why we need a trade bill, and that's why we need terrorism insurance that doesn't provide a vehicle to enrich personal injury trial lawyers. And that's why we've got to make sure that Congress doesn't overspend.

So we've had mixed news. One week we had positive growth in the first quarter, although a lot of that, of course, was attributable to inventory build-back, as you and I discussed, and based upon consumer demands. I'm concerned that there's not enough business investment. But we'll see how it goes. But Congress must get us some legislation.

President Aznar's Visit to Camp David

[*A reporter began a question in Spanish, and no translation was provided. He then concluded his question in English.*]

Q. What do you think of this invitation, and what do you expect—trip to Camp David?

[*President Aznar answered in Spanish, and no translation was provided. A reporter began a question in Spanish, and no translation was provided. He then concluded his question in English.*]

Q. What are you especially interested in stressing during your conversations with the President?

President Aznar. I'm sure that as soon as you allow us to do so, we will make maximum use of our time. Because what we intend to do here is be able to continue our discussions in a relaxed atmosphere, because there's a lot of work to be done, and we intend to get down to work and do it. And we appreciate the invitation.

President Bush. *Gracias.*

President's Dog

Q. Where is Barney?

The First Lady. Barney is back at the house.

President Bush. He's at the cabin. We were afraid Barney would disrupt the press conference.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:11 p.m. In his remarks, President Bush referred to President Aznar's wife, Ana Botella; President Vladimir Putin of Russia; Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel; and King Abdullah II of Jordan. A reporter referred to Minister of Foreign Affairs Igor Sergeyevich Ivanov of Russia; and Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

May 4, 2002

Good morning. Sunday is Cinco de Mayo, a day that commemorates the Mexican people's great victory at the Battle of Puebla, a battle for freedom fought against overwhelming odds. That victory continues to inspire liberty-loving people across the globe. It reminds us that the cost of freedom is always high, but it is never too high. Brave and determined people, committed to a great cause, can do great good. That was true 140 years ago, and it remains true today.

Just before September the 11th, I welcomed my good friend President Vicente Fox to the White House as the guest of honor at my first state dinner. When he arrived I said this: The United States has no more important relationship in the world than the one we have with Mexico. In the past 8 months, our relationship has grown even stronger. The people of Mexico stand with the American people in the war on terror. This is a decisive decade in the history of liberty, and the United States is grateful we can count on Mexico's strong support.

America's relationship with Mexico is built on common values and shared culture. We both value families and communities—the places where character is formed and traditions are passed from one generation to the next. Americans appreciate the strong faith of the Mexican people, a faith that provides hope and inspiration and unity even in the darkest times.

People on both sides of the Rio Grande value independence and freedom and opportunity, the ability to work hard to achieve

your dreams and become successful as a result. By their strong values and their determination to create a better life for themselves and their children, immigrants from Mexico enrich American life.

My close relationship with President Fox reflects the close relationship between our nations. It is built on the solid ground of respect and trust and friendship. President Fox is a great Mexican patriot, a man of honest talk and convictions who is passionately concerned for his people's welfare. We are both deeply committed to helping the entire American *familia* achieve prosperity and live in peace.

Mexico and America share a continent, and we are dedicated to common goals. We are working together to create a "smart border," one that will speed the safe flow of people and commerce but protect our two nations from terrorism and crime. We are working together on a Partnership for Prosperity, to better focus the creativity and resources of the private sector on the critical task of development. We are working together to address the important and challenging immigration issues between our countries. And I've asked our Congress to pass an extension of section 245(i) of our immigration law to let families stay together while they become permanent residents. We're working together to improve conditions for people living along the border. And we're working together to create an entire hemisphere that lives in liberty and trades in freedom.

Our two nations will succeed together because our futures are bound to each other. Geography made us neighbors, but our shared values and rich cultures have made us the closest of friends.

May God bless the people of Mexico, and may God bless the United States of America.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 9:20 a.m. on May 3 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on May 4. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 3 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The President also recorded and the Office of the Press Secretary released a Spanish language version of this address.

Remarks at the White House Correspondents' Association Dinner

May 4, 2002

The President. Thank you very much, Steve. Mr. Vice President, members of the White House Correspondents' Association, ladies and gentlemen, Laura and I are honored to be here tonight. Thanks for the invitation.

What a fantastic audience we have tonight: Washington power brokers, celebrities, Hollywood stars, Ozzy Osbourne. [*Laughter*]

[*Mr. Osbourne bowed and blew kisses to the crowd.*]

The President. Okay, Ozzy. [*Laughter*] Might have been a mistake. [*Laughter*]

The thing about Ozzy is he's made a lot of big hit recordings: "Party With the Animals"; "Sabbath, Bloody Sabbath"; "Face in Hell"; "Black Skies and Bloodbath in Paradise." Ozzy, Mom loves your stuff. [*Laughter*]

And Drew Carey is our entertainment tonight. Drew has a fun TV show called "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" which is totally improvised. Drew, got any interest in the Middle East? [*Laughter*]

Last year at this dinner, I showed some photos straight out of the Bush family photo album. Tonight I'm going to show you some actual, never-seen-before photos taken by the White House photographers over the past 15 months. We've created, just for you, this little slide show of what life is really like inside the Bush White House.

So Karen, if everyone's in the seats you've assigned them—[*laughter*]—hit the projector.

[*First slide.*]

When I look back over the last year, I think I've grown in office. I'm much more focused. [*Laughter*]

[*Slide change.*]

I feel relaxed. [*Laughter*]

[*Slide change.*]

I mean, occasionally there are moments where I feel a little stress. [*Laughter*]

[*Slide change.*]

I may have aged a bit. [*Laughter*]

[*Slide change.*]

One of the great things about being in the White House is having Laura close by. Whenever she drops by my office, my day is brighter.

[*Slide change.*]

She helps me in a million ways. Here she is helping me pronounce "Azerbaijanis." [*Laughter*]

[*Slide change.*]

We have two dogs. This is our dog Barney. I tell him with eyebrows like that, he ought to be a Senator. [*Laughter*]

[*Slide change.*]

You can tell Barney's in some trouble here. This is the day he chewed up the list of undisclosed locations, and we couldn't find Dick. [*Laughter*]

[*Slide change.*]

The little guy keeps a lookout like this hour after hour. [*Laughter*] I kind of wish Tom Ridge had never had that talk with him about homeland security. [*Laughter*]

[*Slide change.*]

Now, this is our dog Spot. People often ask me how I came up with that name. [*Laughter*] I don't know; I'm just kind of a creative guy. [*Laughter*]

[*Slide change.*]

The thing about Spot is that she is—she actually thinks she's the President. [*Laughter*] Here she is coming back from a fundraiser for the American Kennel Club. [*Laughter*]

[*Slide change.*]

But she is truly a great canine American, and I value her counsel—[*laughter*]—just as I value the counsel of others on the staff. [*Laughter*]

We have a very experienced, mature team of professionals down at the White House.

[*Slide change.*]

This is Josh Bolten. [*Laughter*] He's the White House Deputy Chief of Staff. America should sleep better at night knowing that this calm, level-headed man—[*laughter*]—is helping to guide our Nation.

[*Slide change.*]

This is Nick Calio, the head of our Office of Legislative Affairs. I had just said to him, "So, Nick, what are the chances of the Senate passing ANWR?" [*Laughter*]

[*Slide change.*]

Nick really prepares me well when congressional leaders come down for meetings. Here he is testing out a whoopee cushion that we're going to use on Senator Byrd. [*Laughter*]

But we really have a highly motivated group down at the White House. No matter what the task at hand, each of us gives 110 percent.

[*Two slide changes.*] [*Laughter*]

The truth is, the door to the Oval Office has a little peephole. This is Karen Hughes peeping in on me. [*Laughter*]

[*Slide change.*]

This is Karl Rove peeping in on me. [*Laughter*]

[*Slide change.*]

This is Condi Rice peeping in on me. [*Laughter*]

[*Slide change.*]

Spot has her own peephole. [*Laughter*]

[*Slide change.*]

This is Andy Card peeping in on me. [*Laughter*]

[*Slide change.*]

And ladies and gentlemen—[*laughter*]—this is the Vice President of the United States, looking through a peephole. And Dick, I hope you're not doing what it looks like you're doing. [*Laughter*]

[*Slide change.*]

This photo actually has nothing to do with anything. [*Laughter*] I thought I'd show it to you, however, because it's the only known photo in existence of Alan Greenspan smiling. [*Laughter*]

[*Slide change.*]

This is Ari Fleischer, of course. I was chewing him out here. [*Laughter*] I'm saying, "Ari, I am sick and tired of you not fully answering all the wonderful questions asked by our hardworking White House press corps. Are you sure, Ari, we're not leaking enough?" [*Laughter*] "Are you sure that we've given them enough access to me? I've got an idea, I'll do more interviews—with 'Baseball Tonight.'" [*Laughter*]

Now, part of the job of a President is to meet with representatives of special interest groups.

[*Slide change.*] [*Laughter*]

Here I am meeting with representatives from the American Cloning Council. [*Laughter*]

[*Slide change.*]

I try to work with Republicans and Democrats alike. For political reasons, some Democrats prefer that it not be known they are working with a Republican President, so they slip in the back door—like Hillary Clinton here.

[*Slide change.*] [*Laughter*]

It's not all work, of course. One day, I decided to show some of the staff the White House bowling alley. Boys and girls, there is a reason you wear those special bowling shoes.

[*Three slide changes.*] [*Laughter*]

Of course, another job of the President is dealing with the White House press corps. You ask some pretty tough questions, but to tell you the truth, I don't think you've laid a glove on me.

Here I am after our last press conference.

[*Slide change.*] [*Laughter*]

In closing tonight, I thought about turning serious and talking about all we've been through since I was here last year. But then I decided this wasn't the time or the place. You came to have a good time; we've got Drew Carey waiting to entertain us.

So instead, I'm going to leave you with one last thought and one last photo of our dog Spot.

[*Slide change.*]

I ask you, ladies and gentlemen, is this a great country or what? [*Laughter*]

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:55 p.m. in the International Ballroom at the Washington Hilton. In his remarks, he referred to Steve Holland, outgoing president, White House Correspondents' Association, who introduced the President. He also referred to ANWR, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Remarks at Opening Day of 2002 White House Tee-Ball

May 5, 2002

Well, Shalim, thank you very much for singing the national anthem. Welcome to baseball at the White House. We're glad you all are here.

I want to thank the commissioner of tee-ball at the White House this year, one of the alltime great baseball players, one of the alltime great men, Mr. Cal Ripken.

I want to—I want to welcome the teams that are going to play today on the opening day of the 2002 season. The Uniondale Little League Sluggers and all their moms and dads and the coaches—thank you all very much. And as well, we want to thank the 6 and 11 Little League Sluggers from Trenton, New Jersey. And I want to thank your moms and dads for coming too. Welcome.

We've also got some really fine former baseball players with us—Tony Perez, Mr. Hall of Fame. As well, we've got "Cha Cha" Orlando Cepeda.

I want to thank the other coach on the field, a member of my Cabinet, *Señor* Mel Martinez.

Erubiel Durazo, from the world champion Arizona Diamondbacks, is with us today as well. Erubiel, *mucho gusto*.

As well, there's a great new movie out called "The Rookie." He is—this guy's a Texan. He's a great story. I hope you go see the movie. But the man who Dennis Quaid plays in the movie is with us today, the actual baseball player, Jim Morris. Thank you for coming, Jim.

As well, a former Texas Ranger, Billy Ripken—where are you, Billy? Hi, Billy.

I do want to thank our announcers, Ron Eisen and Alvaro Martin, for being here with us. Thank you guys very much for coming.

This guy doesn't play baseball, but he is a Washington Redskins star, "Big Daddy" Wilkinson. Thank you for coming. Welcome.

And now, before we begin, I'd like for the players to join me in reciting the Little League pledge. Are you ready?

"I trust in God. I love my country and will respect its laws. I will play fair and strive to win. But win or lose, I will always do my best."

Are you ready?

And now, it is my honor to put the first ball on the tee to kick off tee-ball at the White House.

[*The President placed the ball on the tee.*]

Play ball!

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:27 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to entertainer Shalim; ESPN announcers Rich Eisen and Alvaro Martin; and Dan "Big Daddy" Wilkinson, defensive tackle, Washington Redskins.

Proclamation 7555—Small Business Week, 2002

May 3, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The strength of our economy is built on the creativity and entrepreneurship of our people. Those who own and operate our Nation's 25 million small businesses make a vital contribution to our prosperity through their ongoing work to create new technologies, products, and services. These hardworking men and women and their employees define the American spirit through their innovation, dedication, and determination.

The tragedy of September 11, 2001, greatly affected our Nation and our economy; but our economy is recovering and remains fundamentally sound. In the aftermath of the terrorist attacks, the business community rose to this challenge by volunteering their time and services to help with the relief and rebuilding efforts in New York City and Washington, D.C. This compassionate spirit demonstrated America's true character.

To help businesses recover from September 11, my Administration has made more than $520 million in disaster loans available to business owners nationwide. I also remain committed to a domestic policy that stimulates economic growth, boosts consumer purchasing power, and creates a level playing field. Our efforts to lower taxes, enact reasonable regulations, and reduce tariffs and other barriers to free trade will increase the competitive position of our small businesses. To further encourage economic growth, I recently signed into law the Job Creation and Worker Assistance Act of 2002. The Act helps to create more jobs across our country by providing tax incentives for companies to expand and create jobs by investing in facilities and equipment. This action will lead to more opportunities in manufacturing, high-tech sectors, and our small businesses. I am also committed to achieve a permanent repeal of the death tax and the permanent extension of tax relief to help ensure the strength and survival of small businesses.

America's small business owners represent more than 99 percent of all employers and their businesses employ more than half of the private work force. These entrepreneurs who create more than 66 percent of the new jobs nationwide and generate more than 50 percent of the Nation's gross domestic product growth are critical to our country's prosperity and the well-being of our communities. We salute these employers by celebrating Small Business Week and recognizing their contributions to all Americans.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 5 through May 11, 2002, as Small Business Week. I call on all Americans to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs that celebrate the achievements of small business owners and encourage and foster the development of new enterprises.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this third day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the

Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 8, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 6, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on May 9.

Exchange With Reporters in Southfield, Michigan

May 6, 2002

Upcoming Meeting With Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel

Q. [*Inaudible*]—that he absolutely has to talk to Yasser Arafat in order to get to peace negotiations?

The President. You know, I'm going to have a private conversation with Ariel Sharon and would rather that my conversation—what I'm going to tell him and discuss with him be done, and he be the first to know about it——

Q. Has he talked with you about the documents he has?

The President. I talk to him all the time. But if you're asking about Chairman Arafat, I have been asked—if I have been asked once, I've been asked 20 times about him. He has disappointed me. He must lead. He must show the world that he believes in peace. And we have laid out conditions for all parties in order to achieve peace. All parties—Arab nations, Israel, Chairman Arafat, and the Palestinian party—must assume their responsibilities and lead.

This is a series of discussions we're having with—not only with Prime Minister Sharon; as you know, King Abdullah is coming as well. It follows up on meetings I've had with the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia as well as the King of Morocco. I will continue to have further meetings as we begin to bring—coalesce the world around a vision for peace.

Q. But are the Israelis making it any more difficult by seeming to say that Arafat is not someone they can deal with at all?

The President. Oh, I think they express disappointment in his ability to lead. I mean, after all, right before we had our security agreement done, a shipload of ammunition shows up and could probably be aimed at the Israeli citizens. So there's a high level of disappointment.

But I haven't had a chance to talk with Prime Minister Sharon in recent days. I look forward to hearing what he has to say. Part of the goal of the United States is to lay out a vision for peace, which I have done, and then encourage people to assume their responsibility necessary to achieve the peace. And that's why it's so important, for example, that the Arab world be very much involved in a peace process, in discussions for—toward peace. And we are—I think we're making some progress, and I appreciate that.

Burma's Release of Aung San Suu Kyi

Q. Mr. President, what's your reaction to Myanmar's release of Aung San Suu Kyi?

The President. Oh, I thought that was very positive, a good development.

Education

Q. Mr. President, this week you're talking about domestic issues. Are you afraid that people are losing their attention to those during the war?

The President. No, Mike [Mike Allen, Washington Post], I think that people around America know how important public education is, particularly moms and dads and principals and teachers. Public education is on the minds of our citizens every day, because our citizens see public schools in their neighborhoods, and our citizens know how important public education is for the future.

So I will spend as much time as necessary to herald success in our public schools and to remind people of the implementation plan that the Secretary of Education is selling, promoting around the country. We've got to get public schools right. We've got to make sure every child is educated. A lot of schools are making really good progress; some aren't. Those schools that aren't making good progress need to change.

Yes, Martha [Martha Brant, Newsweek], last question.

First Lady's Contributions to Education

Q. Secretary Paige, as well as your wife, has been traveling around talking about education. I'm wondering if you could mention what you think her greatest contribution has been to your education policy?

The President. You know, Laura's a former teacher—I guess you're never a former teacher; you're always a teacher. [*Laughter*] She's not in the classroom—and she understands the importance of teaching, teacher training, teacher recruitment. And one of the most significant contributions she has made and will continue to make is to remind young Americans—and old Americans, for that matter—that their talents and passion are needed in our classrooms. You know, she pushed the Troops for Teacher Initiative, and she's got a way about her that's pretty convincing. And I know she's going to convince a lot of Americans about the importance of being a teacher.

Some school districts are short of teachers, and you've got to remind people—you know, one of my hopes is that as a result of the Nation taking an assessment of that which is important, that the idea of serving your community by being a teacher becomes more paramount in students' minds, and Laura certainly is going to herald that.

The other thing, of course, is reading. There's nothing more fundamental to a good education system than making sure every child learns to read and that our schools use a curriculum that works. She's pretty good about that too. She's a great leader and a great advocate for literacy.

Listen, thank you all. You're watching democracy—one of the core values of democracy is a free press. [*Laughter*]

Q. Yes, and don't forget it.

Q. How free are we?

The President. You're very free—for how much we have to pay on a daily basis to buy your newspapers. [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The exchange began at 11:23 a.m. during a tour of Vandenberg Elementary School. In his remarks, the President referred to Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; King Abdullah II of Jordan; Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia; King Mohamed VI of Morocco; and Aung San Suu Kyi, 1991 Nobel Peace Prize recipient who was released from house arrest on May 6. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks at Vandenberg Elementary School in Southfield

May 6, 2002

Thank you all very much for that warm welcome. I'm delighted to be here. Secretary Paige said that he's moving around the country to 25 different cities and school districts to make sure that the No Child Left Behind Initiative is put in place and implemented, and I just wanted to check up on him a little bit. [*Laughter*] And I'm glad I'm doing so here in Michigan.

I picked Rod to be the Secretary of Education. One, I was comfortable with him as a person. We're both Texans. I saw him in action in Texas. I know how deeply he cares for the children all across our country. But I also wanted somebody that actually knew how to get things done. In Washington, we find all kinds of great theorists, people who talk about theory and philosophy. I was interested in somebody who actually had run a school district, who knows what it means to meet a budget, who knows how to deal with teachers, who insists upon high standards for every child. And Rod did that, and he's a great Secretary of Education. I'm so glad that he's here.

I want to thank Sharalene as well. You know, one of the things you find out when you pay close attention to public education and you try to figure out what works, the good schools are those who have got good principals. Good schools are—[*applause*]. So I want to thank Sharalene for her hospitality. I know it's not easy to welcome the President. [*Laughter*] He's got kind of a small entourage—[*laughter*]—of 25 vehicles. [*Laughter*] But you all and your staff have done a great job. And I want to thank all who are responsible for helping put this event on for your hospitality.

I want to thank your teachers as well. I'm real proud to be in the midst of teachers who are doing a great job.

I made a wise choice when I asked a public school teacher to marry me. [*Laughter*] A lot of people are wondering how wise a choice

she made when she said yes. [*Laughter*] But I'm sorry she's not here with me today. She cares deeply about the teaching profession, and one of her responsibilities that she's assumed is to help recruit young and old alike to become teachers in classrooms.

I want to thank Cecil Rice, who's the superintendent of Southfield Public Schools. You and big Rod speak the same language. Good to have you here. I want to thank Congressman Joe Knollenberg; this is his district. Thank you for being here, Congressman; appreciate your time. I want to thank my friend, the Governor of Michigan, John Engler, for being here as well. Thank you, Governor. We've got Tom Watkins, who's the superintendent of Public Instruction for Michigan. Tom, thanks for coming. We've got the mayor. Thank you, Madam Mayor, for being here; appreciate you coming.

We've got a young lady named Asya Obad here. Now, I want to tell you about Asya. Please stand up for a minute, Asya. [*Applause*] One of the things I try to do as I travel around the country is to remind people that if you live in America, you have a responsibility to your country and the community in which you live; that out of this evil that had been done to us, I believe can come some incredible good. And part of that good is neighbor caring for neighbor and people listening to the universal admonition to love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself.

And this young lady, who is a University of Michigan student, has done just that. She's a—one-time AmeriCorps volunteer?—two-time AmeriCorps volunteer. She works with a program called ACCESS, Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services, to help new students, new immigrant students to learn to read and write. In other words, she's a child who is getting her own education and, at the same time, working hard to make sure our community is strong. You see, America changes one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time. And while one person can't do everything, one person can make a significant difference in people's lives.

I want to thank you for being here, and I want to thank you for the example you've set for people your age and for older people too.

I want to thank the parents who are involved in their children's education. I got to tell you, I was impressed. It just reminded me how great America is when I came—went through the classrooms here. A young girl, just came from Iraq, reads—talks about core democratic values and why they're important. I mean, this is a great country, and it's a great—public schools are so important that we get it right. In order for the future of this country to be bright and hopeful, we've got to make sure every child gets educated, no matter where they're from or their background.

You know, this little girl came, and she spoke—knew the alphabet, but that was it. And she was able, in front of the President of the United States and a press corps, to read about values that matter. But it's the same values that mattered to my little girls. I mean, it's the greatness of our country to share values and to be diverse and to welcome people from all backgrounds into America.

And one of the unifying things about our country is the education system. It's an education system that can be incredibly hopeful. And it's one where, as a result of schools making right decisions, people from all backgrounds do get educated.

The reason I'm here is because this is a successful school. It's a successful school because teachers care and work hard. It's a successful school because there is a mindset that says, every child can learn. It is a school that obviously welcomes people from all backgrounds, but it is also a school that doesn't kind of say, "Well, certain kids are going to be too hard to educate. Let's just kind of move them somewhere else, kind of put them on the sidecar to nowhere," which happens. This is a school that welcomes the young child from Iraq, puts her in a classroom, provides a little special nudge when it comes to an interpreter, but gets her moving.

This is a school that is not afraid to measure, a school that says, "We want to know." You see, there are a lot of people in America who reject the notion of accountability in public education. I'm not one. See, I want to know. I want to know whether a child is

learning to read and write or add and subtract, and I want to know early. It seems like, to me, that if we are concerned about every child and we have high standards that believes every child can learn, that in order to verify that, we ought to measure and not be afraid of accountability. This school is not afraid of accountability and, as a result, is excelling.

There are people who are afraid of accountability systems, and therefore, I become suspicious. Because if you don't want to measure, it kind of makes me worry that maybe you're a little—you're not confident about either your teacher quality or your curriculum. If you're afraid to be held accountable, something must be going wrong. That's how I view it.

What I don't like is a system that quits on kids, and neither should you. This school doesn't quit on kids, and that's why it's heralded for its excellence. You see, there can be a mindset in American schools that say, "Well, there are certain kids that can't learn, and therefore, let's just move them through." The easiest thing to do is to shuffle them through, and one way to make sure that happens is to have no accountability. One way to make sure that it's—you take the easy path, which is give it your best shot and hope you get it right, is not to measure.

And that's happened for too long in America. I'm going to be honest about it. When you've got so many fourth-graders who can't read at grade level, something has gone wrong. And by the way, if they can't read at grade level at fourth grade, you're not going to be reading at grade level at eighth grade, and you're not going to be reading grade level at high school. And all of a sudden, the great American hopes and dreams may not be extended in every neighborhood.

And so one of the reasons I'm so insistent upon accountability—and Sharalene is as well, and Rod is—is because we need to know whether or not children are able to read early and, if they're not, use the accountability system as a way to correct problems. Sharalene was telling me that when this school begins to get a sense that a child is beginning to fall behind, the accountability system steps up; it doesn't decrease. There is a constant attention being paid to a child and whether or not that child is getting the right instruction.

And I think that's not only healthy; I think it's great for the children. If the goal for America is no child left behind, let's make sure we view each child as an individual; test him or her as to whether or not she can read, write, add, or subtract; and correct his or her problems early, before it's too late. And you mark my word, what's going to happen: High standards, accountability, and local control of schools will mean that the public school system is going to be the greatest it can possibly be.

We have responsibilities throughout our society. We have responsibilities. The Federal Government has responsibilities. Generally, that responsibility is to write a healthy check, and we did so in the 2002 budget: $22 billion for secondary and elementary schools. It's an increase of 25 percent. We've increased money by 35 percent for teacher recruitment, teacher retention, teacher pay.

But in—my attitude is, if you spend something, you ought to get results for it. We ought to know. And that's why we insist—and this is what Rod is doing by traveling around the country saying, "In return for Federal help, you've got to measure." The State of Michigan, the State of Texas, the State of anywhere else has got to develop an accountability system that measures grades 3 through 8, to show not only the taxpayers but mothers and dads whether or not expectations are being met.

Local districts have a responsibility. Local districts have a responsibility to support the teachers. They have a responsibility to develop the accountability systems. They have a responsibility to reject curriculum that do not work. They have a responsibility to challenge the status quo. They have a responsibility to provide an education system that is not only good for teachers and principals but an education system in which parents are involved.

Parents have a responsibility in the public education system of America. You have a responsibility to make sure your child comes to school with the understanding that they're going to be polite when they get in the classroom, with the understanding that they'll

treat their teacher with respect, with the understanding there are certain manners that are important. If you expect your child to be well-educated, you have the responsibility of making sure your child gets educated starting at home, with some basic fundamentals.

One of the things I like to try to remind parents, that it'd be helpful if you insisted that your child read more than they watch TV. As a veteran of teenage years, that's easier said than done; I understand that. [*Laughter*]

But it's—all of us must assume responsibilities if we expect the best for every single child. The Federal Government has got responsibilities; the State Government has got responsibilities; the local districts have responsibilities; mothers and dads have responsibilities; the business community has responsibilities.

The Michigan business community has got responsibilities to be involved with the public education system in Michigan. I mean, after all, we're educating potential heads of businesses and employees. And business Michigan must support education, must support the accountability systems, must support the infrastructure necessary to make sure that the school systems in Michigan work.

Tomorrow I'm meeting with executives from around the country. I'm going to remind them that they have a responsibility, as good corporate citizens, not only to make sure that we understand all their assets and liabilities on their balance sheets; that when it comes time to treating their shareholders and employees with integrity, they must do so; that we expect there to be honesty in reporting; but business communities have the responsibility as well to support public education in America.

So I believe firmly we're on the right track. First of all, we herald the importance of public education in America. Being on the right track means you understand the importance of public schools in our country. Anybody who doubts the importance of public education need to come to this school and go see the classrooms that I saw, its diversity. I believe one of the strengths of America is our diversity. I know one of the strengths is the common values that we all share. And I saw that living example in the classrooms I visited.

Secondly, we have the right mindset in America, and that says, every child can learn. You've got to start thinking that. If you don't believe every child can learn, then the ones you don't believe will learn, won't learn. Every child can learn. Notice I didn't say every group can learn. I said, every single child can learn. It's a belief that we've got to focus our attentions on each child.

It says that we trust the local people. Listen, we don't want Washington, DC, managing public education. Trust me, one size isn't going to fit all. It's just not. I know that some will say that's a trite slogan. It's true. It's true. You've got different issues here in Michigan than we have in Texas, and there's different issues here than they have in California. And that's why we want to have flexibility at the local level. We've got to trust teachers and principals to design what works. There needs to be flexibility.

But we must be wise enough to measure. See, we must incorporate accountability and then be quick enough to change when we find failure. And mark my words, what's going to happen: We're going to start seeing great progress.

This school is living example of great progress: Kind of at the bottom of the measurement standards, if I'm not mistaken, 5 years ago, and now you're soaring off the chart. It shows what's possible. We want every school soaring off the chart. We don't want schools languishing in mediocrity and excusemaking. We want the best for every child. That's what America's future is all about. It's about making sure that every single child gets educated.

I love to ask the question when I go into a classroom, "Are you going to college?" It makes me feel so great to see every hand pop up—every hand. And that starts with making sure that every child gets a good education. And you're doing so at this school, and I'm proud you've invited me to come. And on behalf of a grateful nation, thank you for doing your job and doing it with excellence.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:44 a.m. in the school's multipurpose room. In his remarks, he referred to Sharalene Charns, principal, Vandenberg Elementary School; and Mayor Brenda L. Lawrence of Southfield.

Statement on Burma's Release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

May 6, 2002

The United States welcomes the release from house arrest of Burma's Nobel laureate Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, whose party won an overwhelming victory in elections in 1990 but was never allowed to assume power. We hope her release will be "a new dawn" for Burma, as Daw Aung San Suu Kyi told her supporters earlier today, and lead to national reconciliation and a restoration of democracy. All parties should seize this opportunity to press ahead with the urgent work of restoring the rule of law and basic political and civil rights for all Burmese. Only a return to democracy and reintegration with the international community can bring the freedom and prosperity which the people of Burma both long for and deserve.

The United States will closely monitor the situation within Burma as this process unfolds. We will also consult with ASEAN, Japan, the European Union, and other partners on how the international community can most effectively encourage further progress toward restoration of democracy. I compliment U.N. Special Envoy Razali Ismail for his tireless efforts to promote reconciliation within Burma and for helping to facilitate Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's release.

Proclamation 7556—National Tourism Week, 2002

May 6, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

For hundreds of years, people across our Nation and around the world have enjoyed traveling across America to visit our magnificent cities, parks, museums, and countless other natural, historic, and cultural sites. Our land provides endless opportunities to learn as well as to enjoy our Nation's immense variety of attractions.

The travel and tourism industry represents a vital part of the American economy. The Department of Commerce estimates that in 2001 the travel and tourism industry generated more than $90 billion in export revenue and provided a $7.7 billion balance of trade surplus. Preliminary numbers show that last year, the industry created approximately $545 billion in total travel expenditures and provided $94 billion in tax revenue to local, State, and Federal governments. As one of our Nation's largest employers, travel and tourism supports more than 7 million jobs.

During National Tourism Week 2002, we recognize the significance of this important industry to our economy and for the lives of all Americans. In the aftermath of the tragic attacks of September 11, 2001, the travel and tourism industry contributed to our country's efforts to persevere through this challenging time. As we have encouraged people to resume the regular course of their lives, Americans and visitors from around the world have responded by traveling to and enjoying the beauty of our Nation.

During this observance, I urge all Americans and people around the globe to travel to and within our country to experience the hospitality and quality of our Nation's great destinations.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 5–11, 2002, as National Tourism Week. In recognition of the significance of the travel and tourism industry in the lives of citizens of our Nation and to visitors from abroad, I call upon all Americans to mark this observance with activities that highlight this important industry.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this sixth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 8, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on May 9.

Message to the Senate Transmitting the Lithuania-United States Extradition Treaty

May 6, 2002

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Extradition Treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, signed at Vilnius on October 23, 2001.

In addition, I transmit for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to the Treaty. As the report explains, the Treaty will not require implementing legislation.

The provisions in this Treaty follow generally the form and content of modern extradition treaties recently concluded by the United States and will replace the Extradition Treaty of April 9, 1924, between the two countries and the Supplementary Extradition Treaty of May 17, 1934. In conjunction with the new U.S.-Lithuania Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty that took effect in 1999, the Treaty will, upon entry into force, enhance cooperation between the law enforcement communities of the two countries. It will thereby make a significant contribution to international law enforcement efforts against serious offenses, including terrorism, organized crime, and drug-trafficking offenses.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Treaty and give its advice and consent to ratification.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 6, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 7.

Message to the Senate Transmitting the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

May 6, 2002

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, with Annexes, done at Stockholm, May 22–23, 2001. The report of the Secretary of State is also enclosed for the information of the Senate.

The Convention, which was negotiated under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Program with the leadership and active participation of the United States, commits Parties to take significant steps, similar to those already taken by the United States, to eliminate or restrict the production, use, and/or release of 12 specified persistent organic pollutants (POPs). When I announced that the United States would sign the Convention, I noted that POPs chemicals, even when released abroad, can harm human health and the environment in the United States. The Convention obligates Parties to take measures to eliminate or restrict the production, use, and trade of intentionally produced POPs, to develop action plans to address the release of unintentionally produced POPs, and to use best available techniques to reduce emissions from certain new sources of unintentionally produced POPs. It also includes obligations on the treatment of POPs stockpiles and wastes, as well as a science-based procedure to add new chemicals that meet defined criteria.

The United States, with the assistance and cooperation of nongovernmental organizations and industry, plays an important international leadership role in the safe management of hazardous chemicals and pesticides. This Convention, which will bring over time, an end to the production and use of certain of these toxic chemicals beyond our borders, will positively affect the U.S. environment and public health. All relevant Federal agencies support early ratification of the Convention for these reasons, and we understand that affected industries and interest groups share this view.

I recommend that the Senate give prompt and favorable consideration to the Convention and give its advice and consent to ratification, subject to the understandings described in the accompanying report of the Secretary of State, at the earliest possible date.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 6, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 7.

Remarks at the Dedication Ceremony To Rename the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building

May 7, 2002

Thank you very much. Please be seated. Well, thank you all very much. And thank you, Susan, for those kind words, and welcome.

On behalf of all Americans, I am proud to dedicate this historic building to the lasting memory of a great man, Dwight David Eisenhower.

I want to thank Secretary Powell and Deputy Secretary Wolfowitz, Administrator Perry, General Hicks, for their kind words. I'm also pleased to have so many special guests who are here. I don't see—I do see Senator Stevens. I'm so honored that Senator Ted Stevens, who actually worked in the Eisenhower administration, is here. And I want to welcome all the others who worked in this—in the Eisenhower administration to this dedication ceremony. Welcome.

I also want to welcome General Andrew Goodpaster, Senator Bob Dole, and all the other veterans of World War II. We're pleased to have you here. It's a pleasure to welcome back former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. I want to thank Members of the United States Congress, Senator Inouye, Congressman Amo Houghton, Jerry Moran, Jim Ryun, Congressman Steve Horn.

And I too want to say how much we appreciate the work of former Senator John Chafee, who introduced the legislation necessary to rename this bill—this building in honor of Dwight Eisenhower.

And above all, we welcome the Eisenhower family and send our good wishes to John Eisenhower, who could not be with us today. As the son of a President, myself, I know how proud John must feel, knowing that our country's respect for his father has only increased with the years.

The city of Washington is accustomed to change, but this neighborhood looks much as it did in 1929. If you'd walked down Pennsylvania Avenue 73 years ago, you would have seen the Renwick Building on the corner of 17th Street, looking just as it does now. A few doors down were the Blair and Lee Houses, with gas lamps still out front.

In 1929, Lafayette Square was dominated by a great bronze horse, as it is today, proudly carrying Andrew Jackson. And standing outside this building on a spring morning 73 years ago, you might have seen Dwight Eisenhower pull up in a 1927 Buick and walk up the stairs to his office.

The twenties and thirties were quiet times for our Army and Navy, quiet times when he worked here. But it was in this building that Dwight Eisenhower's reputation began to grow. His immediate supervisor said of him this—said this of him: "This is the best officer in the Army. When the next war comes, he should go right to the top." These words carried a lot of weight; after all, the man who said them was Douglas MacArthur.

He also worked here for many years in room 252. There was a time when a visitor to this building might pass in the hallway not only Eisenhower and MacArthur but the first man commissioned General of the Armies of the United States, John J. Pershing. General Pershing occupied room 274, a space now used by Vice President Dick Cheney.

Two doors down is an office that Theodore Roosevelt would still recognize as his own from his time as Assistant Secretary of the Navy. So would Franklin Roosevelt, who, a generation later, occupied the same office and walked these very same halls. And in between, from 1904 to 1908, William Howard Taft reported to work here as the Secretary of the War. In all, as has been mentioned, seven future Presidents have worked in this building; 25 Presidents have known it.

Harry S. Truman held press conferences in an ornate room two stories high called the Indian Treaty Room—although no Indian treaty has ever been signed there. And it was Truman, himself, who paid a distinctive tribute to this building when a committee suggested it be torn down. He believed we ought to leave it right here. He said, "It's the greatest monstrosity in America."

But it was Eisenhower who decided its fate. He said he rather liked it. And over time, a lot of us have come to like it. The architectural grace of this building will remain a matter of opinion, but its place in history and its place on the skyline of Washington is as safe as can be.

It seems odd that with all the history it contains, this great building went more than a century without a name befitting its dignity. We've solved that problem today, and we've solved it once and for all. This building now bears the name of Dwight D. Eisenhower, not because it was spared from the wrecking ball in his time, not even because he was the first President born in Texas. [*Laughter*] His name fits this building because, as a great soldier, a great President, and a good man, Dwight D. Eisenhower served his country with distinction.

People over a certain age will always associate Dwight Eisenhower with a time of strength and a time of stability in America. We think of the fifties and in the mind's eye we see the President and his fine wife, Mamie. They had lived a military life, moving more than 30 times. And just as GIs in the fifties across America were settling back home, so were the Eisenhowers. As a matter of fact, they would live longer in the White House here than at any other address.

We don't need to idolize the era they represented to see all the good things that were there: millions of growing families and industries and new cities and the beginnings of the life that we know today.

Had he never become President, Eisenhower would still be known to all as the leader of the forces that liberated a continent from a terrible evil. The turning point of the war was the decision to invade the coast of France. The decision was made by Roosevelt and Churchill; the day and hour were left to General Eisenhower. And a lot of people felt a lot better knowing that it was his call to make.

General Eisenhower understood exactly what risks lay ahead. Had his troops failed to take the beaches, he was going to point a finger straight at himself. Here's what he wrote, in advance: "If any blame or fault attaches to the attempt, it is mine alone." Fifty-seven years ago this very day, General Eisenhower reported that the mission of the Allied force was fulfilled, and the war in Europe was over.

In victory, he was the first to share credit. It was not within his character to do otherwise. His Vice President, Richard Nixon, said this about General Eisenhower—President Eisenhower: "He always retained a saving humility." "It was the humility," Nixon said, "not of fear but of confidence. He walked with the great of the world, and he knew that the great are human. His was the humility of man before God and before the truth. His was the humility of a man too proud to be arrogant."

In his career, Dwight Eisenhower faced two great crises of the 20th century: a world war that came upon America with a sudden attack, requiring a global response, and a cold war that tested our patience and resolve to wage a struggle of decades.

In our time, we face elements of both, an enemy that strikes suddenly and must be pursued across the years. And in this struggle, we know how victory will be gained, because President Eisenhower—and General Eisenhower—showed us the way. We will be calm and confident and relentless. With the best of America's character, we will defeat America's enemies.

We are proceeding with patience and resolve to overcome this growing danger to the civilized world. NATO, the grand alliance first commanded by General Eisenhower, is part of a new coalition that is making steady progress on every front. Our mission in Afghanistan continues even after we have liberated that country from a brutal regime. We continue to fight Al Qaida terrorists, and we will prevent them from regrouping elsewhere.

We'll deny terrorists the safe havens they need to operate and choke off their sources

of money and supplies. We'll confront dangerous regimes that seek weapons of mass destruction. In this war we will depend on the alertness of our law enforcement, the diligence of our intelligence operations, and on the skill and valor of the American Armed Forces.

Our military has performed with great daring and courage, and more will be asked of them. I have full confidence, complete confidence, in the men and women who wear our uniform. They've responded in the finest traditions of the American military. Their sense of honor, their devotion to duty, their loyal service to America would all be recognized by the five-star general and President we remember today. The skill and determination and optimism of Dwight Eisenhower are alive in the American Armed Forces, and that spirit will bring us to victory.

The General was one of six sons raised by Ida and David Eisenhower in the prairie town of Abilene, Kansas. They raised good men, but destiny chose this one. His whole life shows the power of one man's goodness and integrity to shape great events. He brought permanent honor to his family name, and that name now brings honor to this grand building. It's one more mark of this country's respect, and we offer it today with great affection and lasting gratitude.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:20 a.m. in Presidential Hall at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building, formerly the Old Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Susan Eisenhower, granddaughter of Dwight D. Eisenhower; Chaplain Brig. Gen. David Hicks, USA, Deputy Chief of Army Chaplains; Brig. Gen. A.J. Goodpaster, USA (Ret.), Staff Secretary to President Eisenhower; and former Senator Bob Dole.

Remarks Following Discussions With Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel and an Exchange With Reporters

May 7, 2002

President Bush. I want to welcome Prime Minister Ariel Sharon back to the Oval Office. We've just had a really good conversation about how to get on the path to peace. I want peace; our Government wants peace; the Prime Minister is interested in peace, of course. And we had a good discussion about how to move forward.

One of the things that I think is important—the Prime Minister has discussed this as well—is for us to immediately begin to help rebuild a security force in Palestine that will fight terror, that will bring some stability to the region. I think it's very important that there be a unified security force. But at the same time, we need to work for other institutions—a constitution, for example, a framework for development of a state that can help bring security and hope to the Palestinian people and the Israelis. And one of the things we've got to make sure that we do is—anything, any vision understands that there are people in Israel who long for security and peace, people in the Palestinian world who long for security, peace, and economic hope.

To this end, I've told the Prime Minister that George Tenet will be going back to the region to help construct the—design the construction of a security force, a unified security force, that will be transparent and held accountable.

And so I really am pleased with our conversation. As I've said, there are responsibilities to be had by all the parties. We discussed those responsibilities. I told the Prime Minister there's nothing more that I want than to be peace in the region and that I look forward to working with him and his government to achieve that peace.

Mr. Prime Minister, welcome. I'm glad you're here.

Prime Minister Sharon. Thanks so much. I'm very glad to have this opportunity to come again here to visit you, Mr. President. I would like to thank you for all your efforts. And we need to act against terror worldwide. We appreciated that. And we appreciate your leadership and courageous decisions. And of course, I would like to thank you for your friendship.

Israel is a peace-seeking country, and we are—after many, many years being involved in many wars, heavy battles, and now after the last operation that we carried out against the infrastructure of terror in Samaria and Judea—or as you call it, the West Bank—

I believe that there is a chance now to start and move forward.

We discussed these issues, how to move forward. We emphasized about the need for reform in the Palestinian Authority, and I think that's very important. And we discussed the original peace conference that I advocated, and I believe it's very important. We hope that it will take place.

All together, all of us understand the importance of peace, the need for peace. And I think that we are committed to take every effort and every step to make peace.

And I would like to thank you again for everything and for your friendship.

President Bush. Thank you, sir.

Fournier, AP [Ron Fournier, Associated Press].

Situation in the Middle East

Q. If you could, first of all, further define what you mean by "unified"——

President Bush. Pardon me?

Q. If you could, first of all, identify what you mean by "unified structure." And secondly, more broadly to both of you: Your administration is on record as supporting accelerated peace talks, dealing with Yasser Arafat, and making Saudi Arabia a key partner. Prime Minister Sharon favors incremental steps, taking Arafat out of the process, and he's provided you evidence suggesting that the Saudis encouraged Palestinian attacks. Have you bridged any of those gaps, the two of you?

President Bush. Well, "unified" means that, as opposed to six, seven, or eight different security forces under six, seven, or eight different commands, there's one command structure. That's what that means.

Q. Palestinian?

President Bush. Yes, Palestinian, exactly.

In terms of the other issues, we discussed a wide range of issues. One of the things that should be coming apparent to people is that we're in consultation with not only the Israelis but other governments—I talked to Crown Prince Abdullah today, as well as President Mubarak—about how best to proceed toward a common vision. You just heard the Prime Minister talk about the desire for peace. We had the Saudi Crown Prince stand up and talk about peace and the need for a peaceful solution. And it's very important for us to seize this moment, as the Prime Minister mentioned, and lead and get on that path. And that's exactly what we've talked about.

And I want to reiterate what I've said and will continue to say: There are responsibilities. If people truly want there to be peace, people have to assume their responsibilities for peace. And the Saudis must do that, and they're willing to do that. The Crown Prince, again, and I talked, and I made it clear to him that we've got to fight terror in the region for there to be peace and that he and the other leaders must work and must convince the Palestinian Authority that they have got to do everything in their power to lead toward a solution.

At the same time, I emphasized what Ariel has just mentioned, that we must provide a framework for growth of a potential Palestinian state. There's got to be the framework for education and health and economic development, as well as security. And all parties have got responsibilities in the region to see—to do their part.

Q. [*Inaudible*]—Radio One.

Q. Mr. President?

President Bush. Yes.

Q. Sorry.

President Bush. I can't see you. Trudy [Trudy Feldman, Trans Features], you're blocking her vision.

Response to Terrorism

Q. You've said many times that one should not compromise with terrorism. You said many times that you are disappointed from Yasser Arafat on the issue of terrorism. Do you think that Israel should compromise and negotiate with Chairman Arafat?

President Bush. I'm never going to tell my friend the Prime Minister what to do on how to handle his business. That's his choice to make. He's a democratically elected official.

And I'll reiterate: I have been disappointed in Chairman Arafat. I think he's let the Palestinian people down. I think he's had an opportunity to lead to peace, and he hasn't done so. And that's why it's important for all of us to work out a way to develop the institutions necessary for there to be a Palestinian

Authority that's got the capacity to keep security, but as well as a Palestinian Authority that's got the ability to help promote hope for the future of her people—that there's an education system that works, a health system that's vibrant.

And by the way, there's plenty of nations that are willing to participate, so long as those—the framework for a stable part of the world is in place. And those are the reforms that the Prime Minister has talked about, and those are the reforms that we must press.

I will give you one example. The Palestinians need to develop a constitution, rule of law, transparency. They've got to have a treasury that is able to battle corruption, so that not only does the—do the Israeli people have confidence in the Authority but so do the Palestinian people have confidence in the Authority. And those are the reforms we've discussed.

Q. Mr. President——

President Bush. We've got the Prime Minister here. This guy can answer questions. [*Laughter*]

Prime Minister Sharon. I'm happy to wait. [*Laughter*]

Palestinian State

Q. Mr. Prime Minister, the last time——

President Bush. Thank you, Randy [Randall Mikkelsen, Reuters]. [*Laughter*]

Q. The last time you met President Bush, you accepted the idea of a Palestinian state at the end of the peace process. Do you still support the establishment of a state?

And Mr. President, do you believe that a state should be a stated goal of a peace process?

President Bush. Yes. I haven't changed my position.

Prime Minister Sharon. Thank you. I think that it's still premature to discuss this issue. I think that what we have to concentrate now is making every effort that real reform will take place. And we discussed, I would say, how really to reach these reform, what should be there. And we discussed some other developments, like the original peace conference and other issues.

Q. Do you believe reforms must take place before you would consider a Palestinian state?

Prime Minister Sharon. I think that it's, as I said, it's premature now. I think, first of all, steps should be taken in order to establish—or to have real reform in the Palestinian Authority.

Q. [*Inaudible*]—Radio Number One.

President Bush. How many Radio Number Ones are there? [*Laughter*]

Q. Every one of them is number one. [*Laughter*]

Reform of the Palestinian Authority

Q. Mr. President, I wonder if you could tell us—you've probably been studying these ideas of reforms in the Palestinian society. How long do you think, how long do you estimate it will take the Palestinians to carry out these reforms? And do you have any reason to believe or any information that Mr. Arafat will agree to such reforms? And will Arafat agree actually to lose his power and give it to somebody else in the Palestinian leadership?

President Bush. Well, you know, it's interesting. I think the operative question is, how soon will you start working on reforms? That's the—if I could put a question in your own mouth. The answer is, as soon as possible. That's what we discussed about—how quickly can we begin the reform process? That's also—is what we'll discuss with the Arab leaders who have got an interest in the area, about how to get reforms going.

And I think it's going to be—and the answer as to whether or not people will accept the reforms—look, our job is to convince the Saudis, the Jordanians, the Egyptians that these reforms are absolutely necessary. And when I say people have got responsibilities, I'm not just saying the Israelis and the Palestinians have responsibilities; I'm saying these leaders. And these were—this is a subject I discussed with Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia. He's the man who laid out the vision for peace. He's also a man who understands that by reforming the Palestinians, we have a chance to achieve peace.

And so I would hope that all the responsible Palestinian leaders understand that reform is in their interest. It's in the people's interest. Listen, I deeply hurt when there is

a lack of hope for moms and dads of anybody—Palestinian moms and dads—it bothers me. It bothers me to think there are some whose children are so hopeless they're willing to commit suicide. And so one of the things we've got to work for and one of the things our Nation will work for is reforms coupled with humanitarian help, reforms with the chance for there to be economic development, so people can realize a normal life.

And as to who's going to accept what, we'll find out. But one of the things that's going to be clear is that the world is rallying toward these reforms. And that's what our job is to do, is to lead them to those reforms. It makes a lot of sense. And this is a good first step toward the path to peace.

Listen, thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:55 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia; President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt; and Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Implementation of the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption

May 7, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Chairman:)

Pursuant to the resolution of advice and consent to ratification of the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption adopted by the Senate on July 27, 2000, the President must submit to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations an annual implementation report each year for a 5-year period, beginning after the initial report was filed in April 2001.

This second report to the Congress, prepared by my Administration, indicates that 28 of the 34 members of the Organization of American States have signed the Convention (Barbados and Belize signed in the past year), and 25 members deposited their instruments of ratification with the Organization of American States.

Since the last report, the realization that corruption threatens political and economic stability, undermines democracy, and can create conditions ripe for terrorism has focused governments on the need to actively combat this international scourge. The Inter-American Convention contributes to this fight in the Americas and serves as a model to other regions. With the development of an effective evaluation mechanism, the Convention will help establish a new level of transparency and accountability. This report also outlines the steps taken to establish an evaluation mechanism, known as the Committee of Experts, to oversee implementation of the Convention.

I look forward to working with you to ensure that we continue to combat corruption in our hemisphere and across the globe.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 8.

Remarks at Rufus King International Baccalaureate High School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin

May 8, 2002

The President. Thank you very much for that warm welcome. I'm—it is an honor for me to be here. I want to thank you for the invitation. As you can tell, I'm going to spend a little time talking about education, and a good place to talk about education and educational excellence is in centers of excellence. Rufus King International High is a center of excellence. So is Clarke Street Elementary, and I appreciate the invitation.

As my friend the Secretary of Education said, he is traveling around the country to spread the word that we passed new legislation in Washington, DC, new education reform. I'm honored to join him here in the great State of Wisconsin as part of his tour. His job is to implement the law as quickly as possible so that no child is left behind, and I want to thank Rod for his hard work.

You know, I picked him because he was a superintendent of schools in Houston, Texas, a tough school district. But he believed every child could learn; he believed in setting high standards. He worked hard; he made a huge difference on the frontlines of education. So, instead of picking somebody who knows the theory of education or somebody who talks the philosophy of education, I actually picked somebody who did the work of education. And he's doing a great job.

I want to thank your Governor for traveling with me today—it's an honor to be in the presence—who has made public education his top priority. I want to thank Scott Walker, the executive-elect of Milwaukee. I appreciate Dr. Spence Korte, who is the superintendent here in Milwaukee Public Schools. I want to thank Jeff Spence, president of School Board District Two, for being here. Jeff, thanks for coming. Of course, I want to thank your fine principal for inviting me here, Andy Meuler. I want to thank Keith Posley as well, who is the principal at Clarke Street. I'm fixing to go over to Clarke Street with Keith. I'm looking forward to it. I appreciate you being here.

I want to thank the students for inviting me. I appreciate you giving me the chance to be here. I guess some of you all are about to graduate. [*Applause*] Don't get carried away. It hasn't happened yet. [*Laughter*] I noticed the fine teachers at this school were clapping when I said that. They want you paying attention.

And by the way, I do want to thank the teachers—I'm going to spend a little more time on the teachers later—but you know, you can't have a high school as good as this unless you've got great teachers. And I want to thank the great teachers who are here.

The reason I mentioned the class getting ready to graduate is because you're the first high school class to have graduated in a long time in a time of war. You're the first high school class to have graduated with America under attack. And I want to talk a little bit about that today.

You need to know, as citizens—all of us need to know that we're in for a long struggle. We're in for a struggle to defend our freedom and to defend our values. These aren't political values; these aren't the values of one political party or another. These are the values of all Americans, the values that believe that freedom is important and essential: Freedom to worship the way we want to worship, the freedom to speak your mind, except when the President is speaking—[*laughter*]—the freedom of the press—freedom. And our freedoms are under attack by people who hate America because of our freedoms. And we're not going to let them hurt America again. We will do everything in our power.

This isn't the kind of war that you're used to studying in the textbooks. This is a kind of war we've never seen before. We face a group of international killers—and that's what they are—who are kind of a—hide in caves, and they're not necessarily an organized government. And they're on the run, and we're going to keep them on the run.

It's just important for you to know—it's important for you to know that this nation does not seek revenge; we seek justice. We seek justice. It's going to take a while, and you need to know that as well. But the good news for America—and the bad news for the enemy—is that I'm patient, and America's patient. I'm determined, and America's determined. We're a united country, particularly when it comes to defending that which we value, that which we hold dearly.

It's important for you all to understand that when our country speaks, that we mean it, and we do what we say. I said, either you're with us, or you're against us. I meant that. The good news is, there's a lot of nations with us; a lot of governments understand what is at stake. Civilization is at stake. We cannot allow terrorists to determine the fate of our respective nations.

I also made it clear that we were going to do everything possible to deny sanctuary—that means places to train, places to recruit, places to—places from which to fight—deny sanctuary to the terrorists. And we did that. Thanks to a mighty United States military and our coalition, we threw out a barbaric regime.

See, this is a regime called the Taliban, that said, "If you're a young girl, you don't get to go to school." Think about that. Think about growing up in a country that says, if

you happen to be a female, education isn't available to you. And if you expressed yourself, if you said, "Oh, I don't like the way they think; I don't appreciate that piece of public policy," then you go to jail. See, we were dealing with a barbaric regime. You need to know your Government and our allies and our friends went into Afghanistan to free a country. We didn't go to conquer a country; we went in to free a country, because we believe in freedom for every individual, no matter where they live in the world.

America is still not safe from attack, because they still want to get us, they still want to harm America. But we're doing everything in our power to prevent that. You need to know that. You need to know our law enforcement officials are talking at the Federal, State, and local level. We're sharing information. We're running down every lead. We've got a homeland security initiative that works with our brave police and fire and EMS teams all across the country.

No, we're doing everything in our power. But the best way to make sure that we protect innocent lives, the best way to make sure that Americans can go about their life is for you to know that this Government is going to chase down the enemy one by one, no matter how long it takes, and bring them to justice.

Our job is not only to make America safer, but it's to make America better, a better place. Our job is not only to make the world safer, but it's to make the world a better place. That's why if we're tough and strong and diligent when it comes to fighting terror, we have a chance to bring peace in places in the world. I think out of the evil done to America can come some incredible good around the world. I truly believe that. Out of evil can come good. And at home, out of evil can come good as well. And it starts with making sure that every child gets a good education.

And what does that mean? What are the principles of a good education? Well, it starts with having high standards, high expectations. It starts with having people who believe that every single child can learn, that certain children—there's some attitude amongst some that says, "Well, if you're raised this way or if English isn't your first language, you can't learn." That's not the way people think here. That's not the way Andy thinks. That's not the way the teachers think. They believe in high standards and excellence. They know this: They know that if you lower expectations, if you lower the bar, if you believe certain children can't learn, guess what's going to happen? Certain children won't learn. And that's not satisfactory, as far as I'm concerned.

And by the way, if you believe in high standards and if you believe in high expectations, if you believe if you challenge the students that they can achieve, then you also welcome accountability. You say, "We're willing to see whether or not expectations are being met." In other words, if you have high—now, look, I know you don't like to take tests. When I went to high school, I didn't like to take tests. I didn't appreciate it one bit. [*Laughter*] But—don't get carried away. But I've grown. I understand that how can you possibly tell whether standards are being met or whether expectations are being met if you don't test, if you don't hold people accountable?

And so a competent principal like Andy, he welcomes accountability, because he believes every child can learn. The State of Wisconsin must welcome accountability in grades three through eight as well in order to achieve educational excellence.

We've got to trust the local people. We've got to trust the Andys, the teachers here. We've got to trust the Keiths, the principals all across—the parents. Listen, one size doesn't fit all. We don't want all power on how to run the schools in Washington, DC. It would be a classic mistake; it would be a huge mistake. All wisdom isn't in Washington. As a matter of fact, the best wisdom for educating the children of Wisconsin is right here in Wisconsin.

And so the new bill we passed says we trust local people. We want to empower the people of Wisconsin to make the right decisions. We want to empower the principals and provide as much flexibility at the local level as possible. One size doesn't fit all. You've got to trust the local folks to chart the path to excellence for every single child.

As well, in order to make sure that we meet our goals, to meet high expectations, we've got to make sure our teachers are well-prepared, well-trained, they've got power in their classrooms. And that's one of the things about this bill that I want to spend some time talking about.

First, I'm proud to be in the presence of Alexis Ludewig, the Teacher of the Year for the State of Wisconsin. I want to thank you for being here, Alexis—St. Germaine Elementary. It was my honor to welcome Alexis and Teachers of the Year from every State in the Union to the White House the other day. It was a special moment for me, and it was an exciting time to really be able to thank teachers.

Teaching is such a noble profession. It's an important part of making sure that no child is left behind. So, for those of you who are interested in how to—if you're thinking about a career, about how to best serve your community and serve yourself by helping other people, think about becoming a teacher. I was told that over 85 percent of you are going to go to college; that's a lot. That is fantastic news. Think about becoming a teacher.

I'm going over to Clarke; I'm going to see, I hope, Sherrion Perkins, who had received Milwaukee's Excellence in Education Award in December. She's a reading teacher. You know what makes her special—is that, one, she wants to use curriculum that works. She doesn't want—she wants to discard— [*applause*]—she understands the science of reading. She also believes every child can learn. That's her attitude. That's what makes her a fine teacher.

And then, here, of course, you've got Donna Cassillo, who teaches—where's Donna? *Adonde está*, Donna? *Adonde*? Oh yes, right, good to see you, Donna. Thank you very much. *La doctor, la doctor*, thank you very much. I appreciate you both. I appreciate—okay—[*laughter*]—*silencio*. [*Laughter*]

So here's the deal. How do we make sure that teachers are well-trained, well-equipped, well-prepared? That's the question we've got to ask. And so we spent—hold on. [*Laughter*]

Audience member. [*Inaudible*]

The President. Not a bad answer. "More money," he said. It's exactly what we did in the 2002 budget. We spent 3 billion more dollars on teacher recruitment, teacher training, teacher preparedness. And that's important.

The way you recruit teachers is for people in our communities to remind would-be teachers the importance of the profession. That's what teachers can be doing now in their classrooms. I know you're doing that by being great role models.

Laura, the First Lady, my wife, who I love dearly, is going to spend a lot of time recruiting—[*applause*]. I admit it, proudly so; I do love her a lot. She's a fabulous, fabulous First Lady who is going to spend time reminding people that classroom teachers, people in the classroom, are incredibly important for America.

We've got to make sure that teachers are properly trained, and we've got to admit that sometimes our teacher colleges don't train teachers well enough. And therefore, we have to retrain teachers, retrain teachers on curriculum that works, make sure teachers are able to match their hearts with skill in the classrooms. We want to make sure that new teachers are prepared to teach, and therefore, they need to pass an exam in their course—new teachers, upon graduation, must be able to show—pass an exam in their specialty. I think that's important. Particularly for teachers who are now in the classroom, who view their profession—rightly so—as professionals, you want to make sure that others joining your ranks, upon certification, are able to pass an exam in the course in which they're supposed to be teaching. They're supposed to have subject matter—supposed to understand the subject matter.

One of the things in the new bill that's important for teachers to know is that there's what's called the Teacher Protection Act. It says that teachers and principals and school board members can take reasonable actions to maintain order and discipline in the classroom without the fear of being sued. And that's good law, and that's important law. The teacher must be able to control his or her classroom in order to be able to impart knowledge. I don't like it when frivolous lawsuits disrupt quality education, and I'm

proud of this part of the bill. I worked on it, campaigned on it, and I really think it's going to make a big difference for the professionals who are in the classroom.

I also—if you're someone who has borrowed money to go to college and you want to teach math or science or special education in what they call a low-income area, you should be allowed to forgive up to $17,500 of your college debt. In other words, we're going to use the ability to forgive debt to encourage teaching.

But the key thing for teachers with this pot of money out there is for States to have the flexibility to meet the needs of the teachers and the teaching profession, whether it be to recruit or pay or retention bonuses or teacher development. It's not up to the Federal Government; it's up to the States and local school boards to make that decision.

So we've got the ingredients for success in education. I truly believe it. As Rod mentioned, this is a bipartisan bill. That means that both Republicans and Democrats worked on it. It's not a party bill; it's not a bill—it's a bill that's good for America. It's a bill that sets a framework for change and excellence. It's a bill that says success is the only thing that we expect in America. And where we find failure, we must challenge failure. It's unacceptable—just unacceptable—to have children trapped in schools that are mediocre, that won't change, that won't teach, because we have high expectations in America and high hopes.

No, we're fighting evil around the world. And one way to fight it here at home is to make sure every child gets a good education. And another way to fight it, and I want you all to listen carefully, for those of you who are wondering about America and what—our worth and what this country is all about: If you want to fight evil, do some good. You see, if you want to fight evil, love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. The great strength of America lies in the hearts and souls of our citizens.

We have this kind of materialistic world—it must have seemed that way to the enemy. When they hit us, they must have said, "This country is so self-absorbed, so selfish, so materialistic, so self-centered that it would never respond—maybe file a lawsuit or two, but never respond." And they were mistaken, because that's not what we're made out of. On the one hand, we're tough. On the other hand, we're compassionate. On the one hand, we will do what it takes to defend liberty, as I mentioned. But on the other hand, we can show the world what we're made out of by loving a neighbor.

If you're interested in serving your country, go to your church or synagogue or mosque; start a program that loves a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. Why don't you go to the Boys and Girls Club and help mentor a child after school? Why don't you walk across the street and tell a neighbor who may be a shut-in that you love them and ask them what you can do to help them? It's these acts of kindness that help define the soul of America.

I met a young lady today at the airport named Tammy Krohn—where are you, Tammy? There she is, Tammy Krohn. Tammy Krohn is an AmeriCorps volunteer. Tammy Krohn has said, "What can I do to help my country? What can I possibly do to make a difference in the lives of my fellow citizens?" She is a resident elementary school teacher for children with special needs. She trained a golden retriever that will serve someone with physical disabilities. Oh, some say, "Well, you know, that's not that big a deal." It's a big deal to the person she's helping. You see, America changes, America becomes a better place one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time. And what Tammy knows is that one person can't do everything, but one person can make an enormous difference in the lives of somebody who needs help.

And that's my call today. To those of you who live—are going to college—you got a great education here, you're going to go to college, I just want you to remember that if you're interested in fighting evil, if you're interested in making this Nation as strong as it possibly can be, help somebody in need. Take time out of your day, take time out of your life to be a part of the vast army of compassion which exists all across this great land.

I want you to know you live in the greatest country—the greatest country—on the face of the Earth, and I am proud to be your

President. God bless, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:20 a.m. in the school's gymnasium. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Scott McCallum of Wisconsin.

Remarks at Clarke Street Elementary School in Milwaukee

May 8, 2002

The President. I'd like to thank my friend Rod Paige, who is the Secretary of Education. Scott McCallum, your Governor—welcome to your Governor. I want to thank the teachers who are here. Thank you all for teaching.

I'm here because this is a great school that believes every child can learn. It starts with a mindset that says every child can learn. That means there's high expectations, and there's a willingness to make sure every child is learning. I appreciate the curriculum you're using. We went—a reading program that we're quite familiar with in Texas—Rod and I are from Texas—and it's a program that works. You're using a curriculum that has been proven to work, and that's important. I want to thank the parents who are here. You've got a responsibility to make sure your children come to school polite, prepared, ready to learn. Make sure you encourage them to read more than they watch TV. I know that's a monumental task, but it's important. It's important to make sure every child learns to read. And parents have got a lot of responsibility to make sure their children learn to read.

I want to thank the Boys and Girls Clubs that are involved here as well. I appreciate that. We're going to change America one heart and one soul and one conscience at a time. And the Boys and Girls Clubs are an integral part of providing help, particularly in after-school programs. And I want to thank you for being here.

Okay, I've got some questions for you. Ready? How many of you are going to college?

[*The students raised their hands.*]

The President. That's good news. See, that means you've set a goal. In order to meet that goal, you've got to really be good readers, and you've got to study and listen to your teachers.

How many of you read more than you watch TV? [*Laughter*] With all due respect to the cameras, I hope you read more than you watch TV. You learn a lot more. It will help you get ready. See, if you raised your hand and said you wanted to go to college, in order to make sure you help achieve that goal, practice your reading. A good way to do it is to turn your TV sets off and practice.

And finally, in order to go to college, to meet the goal you've set, make sure you make right choices. Tell them, "no," when somebody tries to say drugs are cool or alcohol is good. Make the right choices. You'll be in college, and that's what we want.

I'm so glad that we could come by to see you all. God bless you all, and thanks for letting me come by.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:29 a.m. in the school's gymnasium. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at Logan High School in La Crosse, Wisconsin

May 8, 2002

The President. Thank you. Okay, here we go. Thank you all very much. It's——

Audience member. We all love you!

The President. Your mother may be watching; behave yourselves. [*Laughter*]

I'm honored to be here. I want to thank the citizens of La Crosse, Wisconsin, for such a warm welcome. I'm—great to be here in Logan High School. It's a great place.

So I was being briefed about Logan High School. I'll tell you what impressed me the most. I was impressed by the fact you've got a great baseball team. I was impressed you've got a great girls basketball team. But I was most impressed when I saw that the school raised a banner for the academic superstars. I'm at this school, of course, to talk education, but I'm also here to herald excellence. And we have found excellence at Logan High School, and thanks for giving me a chance to come by.

I appreciate the Secretary of Education traveling with me today. You know, we've got

a lot of people who like to theorize in Washington, DC—kind of philosopher types. I'm kind of a roll-up-your-sleeve-and-get-it-done type guy. And that's what I want the people—and I picked that kind of man as our Secretary of Education as well. This is a fellow who's been on the frontlines of education. I had the honor of meeting your superintendent here in La Crosse. They were able to talk superintendent talk. [*Laughter*] They know how to get things done. And so I've got a really good man who's joined me in my administration to help make sure that no child in America—and we mean no child—is left behind when it comes to education.

I want to thank Logan High grad, class of '81, Congressman Ron Kind for joining us today. Thank you, Ron. I really appreciate you coming today. I'm honored you're here. I also want to thank your Governor, Scott McCallum, for traveling with me today as well. I want to thank Michael McArdle, who is the president of the La Crosse School Board, for being here. I want to thank all the school board members. I appreciate Thomas Downs, who's your superintendent. Interestingly enough, he showed me a picture of he and my dad when he was—I think, a teacher, he said, in Iowa. I really want to thank Scott and the staff and the teachers for making this visit possible. You know, one of the things I've learned, as Governor and now President, is that when you find a good school, you also find a good principal.

There's going to be some folks here graduating, I understand, pretty soon.

Audience members. Yes!

The President. Don't take it for granted. [*Laughter*] But you'll be the first high school class that has graduated with America under attack. We got under attack in September, and you're graduating in a time of war. And I want to talk to you a little bit about what that means for America, what it means for our country, what it means for a nation to fight for what it believes in.

I can't imagine what went through the minds of our enemy when they attacked us on September the 11th. You know, they must have thought America was so self-absorbed, so materialistic, so selfish that we would cower in the face of a challenge; well, we might file a few lawsuits or two, but that would be all we would do. But that's not the America I know, and that's not the America you're a part of. This is a country that when it comes to defending that which we believe in, when it comes to defending our freedoms, we are patient; we're deliberate; and we are plenty tough.

You're graduating in a time of war, right here in America, but a war that your textbooks really haven't been able to describe before. It's a new kind of threat to our country. Now, you need to know right off the bat that our enemy are nothing but a bunch of coldblooded killers. And they hate America because of our freedoms. They cannot stand the thought that we worship freely, that we've got freedom of the press, that we debate freely. They can't stand that. It bothers them. And therefore, they're out to hurt us again.

Now, you need to also know that we're doing everything we can to protect the American people. My most important job is the security of the American people. I learn that every day when I walk into the grand Oval Office. In the morning, I walk in there, and first thing I do, of course, is—after I bring the First Lady a little coffee—[*laughter*]—is take Spot and Barney down, let them work the South Lawn for a while. [*Laughter*] Spot was born in the White House. She's 13 years old. She understands the decorum of the Oval, so she gets to go in. But Barney is only a year and a half and we got a new rug, so he doesn't. [*Laughter*]

Every morning I read about threats to America. I read about the enemy wanting to inflict some more harm on us. And every morning it reminds me that I will do everything in my power to protect the American people.

Our law enforcement officials are talking better amongst each other; we're sharing information a lot better way now. The Federal Government is in better communications with State and local governments. And anytime we get a hint or anytime we get kind of a sniff that something might be fixing to happen, you need to know we're acting. We're acting within the confines of the United States Constitution, but we're acting.

But the best way—and I want the students to understand this—the best way for me and our Government to protect the homeland is to chase these killers down one by one and bring them to justice. And that's what we're going to do. And it's going to take a lot longer than people want; it's just going to take a lot longer than people want. We're not dealing with an organized government with the Al Qaida network. We're dealing with people who, on the one hand, send youngsters off to kill themselves, and they themselves try to hide in caves. That's the way they are.

It's important for you to know as well that when your country speaks, we're going to do what we say. And we told the Taliban, "Since you're harboring those terrorists, you're just as guilty," and we ran them out of business. Thanks to the United States military and a mighty coalition, we ran them out of business.

Our country doesn't seek revenge. I want the high school kids here to understand: We don't seek revenge; we seek justice; that's what we seek. And when we went into Afghanistan, I want you to remember—and history will record—that this Nation, this decent, kind Nation liberated a group of people from the clutches of barbaric people who would not even educate young girls. We went in not as conquerors but as liberators. And I'm proud of our Nation, and I'm proud of our heart.

Now, it's going to take a while—it's going to take a while. But much to the chagrin—I guess to the chagrin—I haven't spent a lot of time talking with the enemy, but I got the feeling they're going to be disappointed to hear that we're going to remain united as a country and that we're resolved and we're patient and we're plenty tough; that they think they can hide, but they can't. Our strategy has been not only to disrupt the government that harbored these people; we're destroying their training camps; we're disrupting their finances. We're chasing them down. We're denying them sanctuary in other parts of the world. Listen, these are the kind of people that if they can find a soft spot, they'll light. If they can find somewhere where there may be a weak government, they'll try to move in. And that's why, when I look at some of these leaders and send a message, "Either you're with us, or you're with them," they understand that we mean what we say. And we're beginning to deny sanctuary.

No, it's going to take a while. But the people in this high school, the kids in this high school have got to understand, it is worth it. I will not let—your Government's not going to let people destroy the freedoms that we love in America. We fight for civilization, and they're going to find out what this country is made out of. This country is going to defend our values to the core, and we're going to win.

But not only do we work to make our country and the world safer; we also got to work to make it better, a better place. And it starts with making sure every child in America gets educated. I—there's been a lot of talk about this bill I was able to sign—by the way, worked on by both Republicans and Democrats. It was a—it was a refreshing change of what sometimes takes place in Washington, or a lot of times, where people are in there just trying to promote their own political party without worry about the Nation. This is a piece of legislation where we worried about the Nation and not our political parties, and the Nation is better off for it. I want to thank Ron for his vote on this piece of legislation, by the way.

But here's what—here's what—let me tell you the philosophy in the bill. It first starts off by saying, in order to achieve educational excellence around the Nation, we must have high expectations and high standards. It starts with the belief that every child can learn. If you have low expectations—in other words, some can't learn—you're going to get bad results. It starts with a mindset. See, I believe every child can learn, and I expect every child to learn. We have raised the bar of expectations.

And in order to make sure that's happening, we're insisting that people show us it's happening. See, if you believe it can happen, then you want to know if it's happening. If you don't believe it can happen, you don't care. If you have low expectations for students, if you have low standards, you don't care whether they're learning, because you

don't think they can. If you have high expectations, you care, and therefore, you want to see.

And we want to know. We want to know through an accountability system, designed not by the Federal Government but by the good people of Wisconsin. That's who's going to design it. We want to know. We want to know. We want to see the scores. We want to post it for everybody to see, because we believe every child can learn. I know you don't like to take tests. Too bad. [*Laughter*] It is important. It's important. So what we're saying, that after a period of time, the State of Wisconsin must develop accountability, grades three through eight. If we spend Federal money, we're going to see some results. And so we want to know.

And by the way, an accountability system is not meant to punish anybody; it's meant to be used as an information tool. And if things are going well, we ought to use the accountability system as a way to praise the teachers and principals for success. However, if we find out children aren't learning, there's a reason, and we need to know the reason. And we need to solve the problems early, before it's too late. This business about just shuffling kids through the system has got to end. This business about kind of promoting them out—[*applause*].

But part of making sure that we also succeed is the understanding that one size doesn't fit all when it comes to public education. I mean, look, we don't want Federal—Washington, DC, telling you all how to run your schools. You've got plenty of good people here in Wisconsin. As a matter of fact, the people who love the children in Wisconsin are the people of Wisconsin. And therefore, we have passed a lot of power and authority out of DC to align responsibility and authority where it belongs, at the local level.

Also, an incredibly important part of a successful school system, the thing that matters a lot, of course, is the teachers. And I want to thank the teachers here at Logan High School for doing what you do. It's an incredibly noble profession. It's an important profession. And it's one that I hope—I assume that you get a lot out of it by making sure that our children learn.

The teaching profession needs to be heralded. And we've got a great person in my administration who's willing to do just that, a former teacher, my wife, Laura. When I married her, she was a public school librarian. And the truth of the matter is, she didn't particularly care for politics or politicians, for that matter. [*Laughter*] Thank goodness she said yes when I asked her to marry me. A lot of people now know why I asked her to marry me. A lot of people are wondering out loud why she said yes. [*Laughter*] But she's great. And she's going to go around the country reminding people that if you want to serve your community—reminding young and old—if you want to serve your community, teach. Become a teacher. We've got a Troops for Teachers program for retired military to go in the classroom. We've got Teach for America programs. We've got all kinds of opportunities. When you go to college and you're looking for something to do and you're wondering about your career, think about becoming a teacher, to make a difference in the lives of our children.

The bill we passed has got $3 billion additional dollars in there for teacher training, teacher recruitment, teacher retention programs. And that's good. But it's going to be up to the local districts, the States and local districts, to figure out how to spend that money to make it work for the teachers.

But I'll tell you another piece of reform that's really important in this bill. One of the things that's important is for teachers to be able to control her classroom or his classroom. It's essential that that be the case. And for the first time, the Federal Government has limited liability for teachers and principals and school board members and superintendents when they enforce reasonable standards of conduct in classrooms.

Let me see if I can put that a little more plainly. If you think you can disrupt your class, you're going to get booted out, and the teacher's not going to get sued. So don't disrupt the class. [*Laughter*]

Parents have got a lot to do with whether or not schools in our communities succeed. The parents have got to make sure that young children read more than they watch TV. That's a hard thing to do. Oh, I know it's hard to turn off the TV and read to your

child. But it's really important for a mom or a dad—if a mom or a dad wants their child to learn, get reading to them early and stay on it and click off the tube. Your children are going to learn a heck of a lot more.

It's important for parents to come to the PTAs and to be interested. It's important for a parent to make sure that a child understands respect for teachers when they get in that classroom, that they have got a responsibility to be respectful. And one way to make sure parents are involved is to use the accountability system. A lot of parents in America feel like their school is doing just fine, until they see the results of the children's tests, until it's a comparative system like you do here in La Crosse.

This man right here, he's not worried about comparing. He's a confident principal. He's confident in the teachers. He doesn't care if there's a comparison, because he knows he's going to do well. He's focused. He likes that idea of a good, healthy comparison.

But in order to enhance parental involvement, parents need to know. It's amazing how many parents say, "Everything is going just fine in my child's school," until they see the results. And if you want to enhance teacher—parental involvement, let them see whether or not their children are learning relative to the school across town. Just make sure that the scorecard is honest and open and transparent, and you'll get parental involvement and even more.

This State has enacted public school choice, which basically says, if your child is trapped in a failed school, we're not going to tolerate that anymore. And if you're tired of it, you can move to another public school. I think that's a good, healthy reform. Our bill does just that. And not only that, if a child is trapped in a school that won't change, after 3 years there are what's called supplemental services. That means money, Title I money follows the child—a Title I-eligible child to tutoring services, summer school, after-school services. If you're interested in making sure no child is left behind and you find children trapped in schools that will not change and will not teach, we've got to make sure that they get extra help, and give parents additional choices.

And that's exactly what this bill does. Parental involvement not only happens when there's care and love—I told people earlier today at our seminar, I can't make people love one another; that's not the role of Government. But we can provide the tools necessary for loving parents to become more involved. And one way to do so is for the results to be open and for parents to have different options.

Now, we've got a good plan, but it's up to you to make it work. The Federal Government is not going to—the Federal Government is going to spend money, which we have; the Federal Government is going to provide a strategy. But it's up for the local folks, and that's why we've come to this school. This is a school in which the community takes great pride. Mothers and dads take great interest. The teachers take great time to make sure that every child gets educated. A better America is going to be an America that educates every child.

I keep saying "every child." The truth of the matter is, we're not educating every child right now. We're letting a lot of them just go on through, the tough-to-educate. "If you don't speak English or the mothers or daddies don't speak English as a first language, let's just move them through"—that's going to quit, as far as I'm concerned. That's not the America I know.

The public school system is a vital part of our democracy. It is absolutely essential that we have educational excellence if we want our democracy and our freedom and our system to flourish and thrive. And that's the kind of public school system I envision, and I know it's the kind you envision as well.

I believe that out of the evil of September the 11th will come incredible good. I believe that we can achieve peace. That's my dream. Oh, it's going to be tough to get there; there's going to be some hills to climb. But out of this, by being firm and resolved, we'll achieve peace, and that's important for America. It's important for our children. It's important for our children's children.

I also believe out of this evil will come some good, because Americans are such a compassionate and kind people. People ask me, "What can I do to join the war on terror?" And my answer is, love a neighbor like

you'd like to be loved yourself—that if you want to fight evil, do some good; that if you want to confront the evildoers that struck America, walk across the street and tell a shut-in that you love them. Mentor a child. Teach a child. Go to your church or your synagogue or your mosque and rally the compassion within the—within the halls there to feed the hungry. There are pockets of despair in America. There are pockets of hopelessness right here in La Crosse, Wisconsin. And if you want to fight evil, tackle those pockets of despair with love and decency.

I met Dorothy Wetterlin today. Where's Dorothy? She's somewhere. Hey, Dorothy, stand up, will you? No? You don't want to stand up? Okay, don't stand up. Dorothy kindly came out to the airport to greet me. The reason why is because Dorothy is a soldier in the army of compassion here in La Crosse, Wisconsin. She is—helps victims of domestic abuse and violence. She started puppet shows for young kids in elementary schools to teach them how to make the right choices when it comes to drugs and alcohol. She's a person making a difference. She's a person who understands that one person can't do everything but one person can darned sure do something to help somebody in need.

America is full of Dorothys. You've got them all across this country. And I want the young to understand that I believe you have an obligation as an American to help make this country a compassionate and decent place. I believe that it's important for you—I know it's important you go to college or whatever you're going to do after high school, go to work. But remember, if you're interested in fighting evil, do some good. Lend your heart; lend your talent to help somebody in need.

And America is doing this. I am so optimistic about the future of our country, not only because we are strong and tough and resolved. I am optimistic about the future of America because we are decent and honorable and good people.

I think the most telling event on September 11th, and one that I hope a lot of people remember, is what happened on Flight 93. Basically, what I'm saying is, it's important to serve something greater than yourself in life. It's important to serve a call greater than yourself and a cause greater than yourself. Flight 93, we had average citizens flying across the country, and they realized their plane was fixing to be used as a weapon on the Nation's Capital. They called their loved ones on the phone. They said a prayer and told them they loved them, said a prayer, and they drove the plane in the ground to serve something greater than themselves.

That's the American spirit I know. That's that sense of sacrifice that makes this country so strong. And that's exactly what's happening. I want you to know when you get out of high school, you're going to college, and you're going to college in the greatest land, the greatest nation on the face of the Earth. And it is my high honor to be the President of the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

Thank you for letting me come. May God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:05 p.m. in the school's gymnasium. In his remarks, he referred to Scott Mihalovic, principal, Logan High School. He also referred to Title I of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (Public Law No. 103–382), which amended Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Public Law No. 89–10).

Statement on the Terrorist Attack in Karachi, Pakistan

May 8, 2002

The United States deplores and condemns the terrorist murders carried out by a suicide bomber in Karachi, Pakistan, earlier today. Today's attack underscores the dangers all our citizens and societies continue to face from such attacks and strengthens our resolve to continue working together to fight terrorism at home and abroad.

On behalf of the American people, I extend my condolences to the families of the victims and the people of Pakistan and France, whose citizens were killed in this attack.

Message to the Senate Transmitting the Peru-United States Extradition Treaty

May 8, 2002

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Extradition Treaty Between the United States of America and the Republic of Peru, signed at Lima on July 26, 2001.

In addition, I transmit for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to the Treaty. As the report explains, the Treaty will not require implementing legislation.

The provisions in this Treaty follow generally the form and content of modern extradition treaties recently concluded by the United States and will replace the outdated extradition treaty in force between the two countries signed in 1899. The Treaty will, upon entry into force, enhance cooperation between the law enforcement communities of the two countries. It will make a significant contribution to international law enforcement efforts against serious offenses, including terrorism, organized crime, and drug-trafficking.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Treaty and give its advice and consent to ratification.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 8, 2002.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With King Abdullah II of Jordan and an Exchange With Reporters

May 8, 2002

President Bush. It's an honor for me to welcome back His Majesty the King of Jordan. I always enjoy a visit with His Majesty. He's a man who cares deeply about the people of the region, a person who always emphasizes the humanitarian aspects of the people of his country. And he cares deeply about peace.

It's a series of ongoing discussions I'm having with leaders from the Middle East as to how we can seize the moment, to bring peace to the region. Your Majesty, welcome back to the Oval Office. I'm thrilled to have you here.

King Abdullah. Thank you, Mr. President. Always a delight to see you again and to be here at this difficult time. And I hope that with our discussions today, we can somehow try and articulate a way to bring Palestinians and Israelis to peace and security. And I look forward to fruitful discussions with you this evening.

President Bush. Thank you. We—the Majesty has agreed to take a couple of questions, as have I. We'll start with Terry [Terry Moran, ABC News].

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Mr. President, you said, "Seize the moment." In many ways, this is a difficult moment. At this juncture, as you're trying to put in place a structure for progress towards peace, do you believe that Prime Minister Sharon should act with restraint in responding to yesterday's suicide bombing?

President Bush. Well, first I want to remind everybody, it seems like every week is a difficult week in the Middle East. And it's been difficult months in the Middle East, and it's been difficult years in the Middle East. There's been a lot of—there's been a lot of hard feelings and hatreds. And our jobs are to convince people, first and foremost, that they've got to believe in peace.

And Israel is a nation that—it's a sovereign nation. But whatever response Israel decides to take, my hope, of course, is that the Prime Minister keeps his vision of peace in mind. We've got to want peace in order to achieve peace, and that's what the United States is working toward.

Efforts To End the Current Impasse

Q. Your Majesty, what is the Jordanian vision that you're going to present to the U.S. administration regarding the U.S. proposed peace conference?

King Abdullah. Well, we're actually here at the moment to see if we can identify some logical steps over the next few weeks to articulate a vision that brings the Israelis and the Palestinians out of the impasse that we're facing at the moment. And we'll discuss the

views this evening and maybe see if we can find a roadmap to have America's support to bring Israelis and Palestinians the peace that they deserve.

President Bush. Jim [Jim Gerstenzang, Los Angeles Times].

Reform of the Palestinian Authority

Q. Mr. President, do you see any role at all for Arafat in any kind of peace conference at this point, or does that have to wait until there's been a reform in the Palestinian Authority?

President Bush. Well, first of all, I was pleased to read the transcripts of his call against terror in Arabic. I didn't read the transcripts in Arabic; I read the English translation. But I was most pleased that he did that. I thought that was a incredibly positive sign.

As you know, I've been one who—he has disappointed in the past, and therefore, I hope that his actions now match his words. It's very important for us, and I'm going to explain this to His Majesty why I think us—all of us involved must work hard to put a—the infrastructure in place or the structures in place for a Palestinian Authority that respects rule of law, that has its own constitution, that is able to fight corruption, that is able to spend money properly when it gets it from foreign sources, so that there is hope, there is hope for the Palestinian people.

One of the things I'm deeply concerned about, and I know His Majesty is as well, is that there is a lot of people—Palestinians who don't believe there is any hope; there's no future. And we've got to make sure they have a better future by putting an economic plan in place. But that can't happen unless there is a Palestinian Authority that's backed by a true government; I mean a true sense of the ability to run itself. And that, in turn, will help Israel be more comfortable with her neighbor.

And so we're going to talk about the way forward. And the way forward is to—and step one is to make sure there's a unified Palestinian security force, a force that is responsible, a force that reports to a certain authority figure, a force that we can hold accountable, a force that's not fractured and fights each other. And to that end, as you know, the other day I announced that George Tenet is going to go to the region to help this reform.

Upcoming Arab Summit

Q. Your Majesty, you are the fourth leader now that's met with President Bush in the last 2 or 3 weeks. Where do you see the Arab nations right now? One of the things that the President called for was that the Arab nations need to take responsibility, need to take a leadership role. What do you see the Arab nations as doing, and what is the message that you're bringing now from the Arab leaders that you have met before coming here?

King Abdullah. Well, one of the things that we will discuss with the President this evening is that after this meeting our Foreign Minister goes to Cairo, to be there at a summit that is going to be convened by President Mubarak and Crown Prince Abdullah with a group of Arab countries, that will articulate the vision of Beirut—in other words, the olive branch towards Israel in practical terms—and at the same time, having to deal with the issues of security and terrorism.

And I hope that there is a lot of success in that meeting, that it allows the Arab countries to really step up to the plate and move forward with the responsibility that we need from them.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel; and Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority. King Abdullah referred to Minister of Foreign Affairs Marwan Muasher of Jordan; President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt; and Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia.

Memorandum on Designation of Officers of the Department of Health and Human Services

March 19, 2002

Memorandum for the Secretary of Health and Human Services

Subject: Designation of Officers of the Department of Health and Human Services

By the authority vested in me as President under the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America and pursuant to the

Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, I hereby order that:

Section 1. *Order of Succession.*

During any period when the Secretary of Health and Human Services (Secretary), the Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the officers designated by Executive Order 13250 of December 28, 2001, to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary have died, resigned, or otherwise become unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary, the following officers of the Department of Health and Human Services, in the order listed, shall perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary, if they are eligible to act as Secretary under the provisions of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, until such time as at least one of the officers mentioned above is able to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary:

Director, Centers for Disease Control; and

Secretary's Regional Representative, Atlanta, Georgia.

Sec. 2. *Exceptions.*

(a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 1 in an acting capacity, by virtue of so serving, shall act as Secretary pursuant to this memorandum.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this memorandum, the President retains discretion, to the extent permitted by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, to depart from this memorandum in designating an acting Secretary.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 9. An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Memorandum on Designation of Officers of the Department of Housing and Urban Development

March 19, 2002

Memorandum for the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development

Subject: Designation of Officers of the Department of Housing and Urban Development

By the authority vested in me as President under the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America and pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, I hereby order that:

Section 1. *Order of Succession.*

During any period when the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (Secretary), the Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and the officers designated by Executive Order 13243 of December 18, 2001, to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary have died, resigned, or otherwise become unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary, the following officers of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, in the order listed, shall perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary, if they are eligible to act as Secretary under the provisions of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, until such time as at least one of the officers mentioned above is able to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary:

President, Government National Mortgage Association;

Regional Director, Southeast/Caribbean (Atlanta, Georgia);

Regional Director, Midwest (Chicago, Illinois);

Regional Director, Southwest (Fort Worth, Texas);

Regional Director, Rocky Mountains (Denver, Colorado);

Regional Director, Mid-Atlantic (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania);

Regional Director, Pacific/Hawaii (San Francisco, California);
Regional Director, New England (Boston, Massachusetts);
Regional Director, New York/New Jersey (New York, New York);
Regional Director, Great Plains (Kansas City, Missouri); and
Regional Director, Northwest/Alaska (Seattle, Washington).

Sec. 2. *Exceptions.*

(a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 1 in an acting capacity, by virtue of so serving, shall act as Secretary pursuant to this memorandum.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this memorandum, the President retains discretion, to the extent permitted by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, to depart from this memorandum in designating an acting Secretary.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 9. An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Memorandum on Designation of Officers of the Department of the Interior

March 19, 2002

Memorandum for the Secretary of the Interior

Subject: Designation of Officers of the Department of the Interior

By the authority vested in me as President under the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America and pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, I hereby order that:

Section 1. *Order of Succession.*

During any period when the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary), the Deputy Secretary of the Interior, and the officers designated by Executive Order 13244 of December 18, 2001, to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary have died, resigned, or otherwise become unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary, the following officers of the Department of the Interior, in the order in which they shall have taken the oath of office as such, shall perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary, if they are eligible to act as Secretary under the provisions of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, until such time as at least one of the officers mentioned above is able to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary:

Director, U.S. Geological Survey;
Director of the National Park Service;
Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service;
Commissioner of Reclamation;
Director, Minerals Management Service;
Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement;
Director of the Bureau of Land Management; and
Commissioner, Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Sec. 2. *Exceptions.*

(a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 1 in an acting capacity, by virtue of so serving, shall act as Secretary pursuant to this memorandum.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this memorandum, the President retains discretion, to the extent permitted by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, to depart from this memorandum in designating an acting Secretary.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 9. An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Memorandum on Designation of Officers of the Department of Justice

March 19, 2002

Memorandum for the Attorney General

Subject: Designation of Officers of the Department of Justice

By the authority vested in me as President under the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, I hereby order that:

Section 1. *Order of Succession.*

During any period when the Attorney General, the Deputy Attorney General, the Associate Attorney General, and the officers designated by the Attorney General pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 508 to act as Attorney General, have died, resigned, or otherwise become unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Attorney General, the following officers of the Department of Justice, in the order listed, shall perform the functions and duties of the office of Attorney General, if they are eligible to act as Attorney General under the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, until such time as at least one of the officers mentioned above is able to perform the functions and duties of the office of Attorney General:

United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York;

United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia;

United States Attorney for the District of Utah; and

United States Attorney for the Western District of Texas.

Sec. 2. *Exceptions.*

(a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 1 in an acting capacity, by virtue of so serving, shall act as Attorney General pursuant to this memorandum.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this memorandum, the President retains discretion, to the extent permitted by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, to depart from this memorandum in designating an acting Attorney General.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 9. An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Memorandum on Designation of Officers of the Department of Transportation

March 19, 2002

Memorandum for the Secretary of Transportation

Subject: Designation of Officers of the Department of Transportation

By the authority vested in me as President under the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America and pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, I hereby order that:

Section 1. *Order of Succession.*

During any period when the Secretary of Transportation (Secretary), the Deputy Secretary of Transportation, and the officers designated by the Secretary pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 102(e) to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary have died, resigned, or otherwise become unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary, the following officers of the Department of Transportation, in the order listed, shall perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary, if they are eligible to act as Secretary under the provisions of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, until such time as at least one of the officers mentioned above is able to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary:

Associate Deputy Secretary of Transportation;

Under Secretary of Transportation for Security;

Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration;

Federal Aviation Administration Regional Administrator, Southwest Region; and

Federal Aviation Administration Regional Administrator, Great Lakes Region.

Sec. 2. *Exceptions.*

(a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 1 in an acting capacity, by virtue of so serving, shall act as Secretary pursuant to this memorandum.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this memorandum, the President retains discretion, to the extent permitted by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, to depart from this memorandum in designating an acting Secretary.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 9. An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Memorandum on Designation of Officers of the Department of the Treasury

March 19, 2002

Memorandum for the Secretary of the Treasury

Subject: Designation of Officers of the Department of the Treasury

By the authority vested in me as President under the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America and pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, I hereby order that:

Section 1. *Order of Succession.*

During any period when the Secretary of the Treasury (Secretary), the Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, and the officers designated by Executive Order 13246 of December 18, 2001, to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary have died, resigned, or otherwise become unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary, the following officers of the Department of the Treasury, in the order listed, shall perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary, if they are eligible to act as Secretary under the provisions of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, until such time as at least one of the officers mentioned above is able to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary:

Fiscal Assistant Secretary;

Chief of Staff;

Commissioner of Internal Revenue, Internal Revenue Service;

Commissioner of Customs, U.S. Customs Service;

Director, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (Glynco, Georgia);

Commissioner, Wage & Investment Operating Division, Internal Revenue Service (Atlanta, Georgia); and

Assistant Commissioner, Office of Securities Operations, Bureau of Public Debt (Parkersburg, West Virginia).

Sec. 2. *Exceptions.*

(a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 1 in an acting capacity, by virtue of so serving, shall act as Secretary pursuant to this memorandum.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this memorandum, the President retains discretion, to the extent permitted by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, to depart from this memorandum in designating an acting Secretary.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 9. An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Memorandum on Designation of Officers of the Department of Veterans Affairs

March 19, 2002

Memorandum for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Subject: Designation of Officers of the Department of Veterans Affairs

By the authority vested in me as President under the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America and pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, I hereby order that:

Section 1. *Order of Succession.*

During any period when the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Secretary), the Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and the officers designated by Executive Order 13247 of December 18, 2001, to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary have died, resigned, or otherwise become unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary, the following officers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, in the order listed, shall perform the functions and

duties of the office of Secretary, if they are eligible to act as Secretary under the provisions of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, until such time as at least one of the officers mentioned above is able to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary:

Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 8 Director, Veterans Health Administration;

VISN 7 Director, Veterans Health Administration;

VISN 19 Director, Veterans Health Administration; and

VISN 21 Director, Veterans Health Administration.

Sec. 2. *Exceptions.*

(a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 1 in an acting capacity, by virtue of so serving, shall act as Secretary pursuant to this memorandum.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this memorandum, the President retains discretion, to the extent permitted by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, to depart from this memorandum in designating an acting Secretary.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 9. An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Memorandum on Designation of Officers of the Environmental Protection Agency

March 19, 2002

Memorandum for the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency

Subject: Designation of Officers of the Environmental Protection Agency

By the authority vested in me as President under the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America and pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, I hereby order that:

Section 1. *Order of Succession.*

During any period when the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (Administrator), the Deputy Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and the officers designated by Executive Order of today's date, entitled "Providing an Order of Succession in the Environmental Protection Agency and Amending Certain Orders on Succession," to perform the functions and duties of the office of Administrator have died, resigned, or otherwise become unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Administrator, the following officers of the Environmental Protection Agency, in the order listed, shall perform the functions and duties of the office of Administrator, if they are eligible to act as Administrator under the provisions of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, until such time as at least one of the officers mentioned above is able to perform the functions and duties of the office of Administrator:

Regional Administrator, Region I; and

Deputy Regional Administrator, Region VIII.

Sec. 2. *Exceptions.*

(a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 1 in an acting capacity, by virtue of so serving, shall act as Administrator pursuant to this memorandum.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this memorandum, the President retains discretion, to the extent permitted by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, to depart from this memorandum in designating an acting Administrator.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 9. An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Memorandum on Designation of Officers of the Federal Emergency Management Agency

March 19, 2002

Memorandum for the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency

Subject: Designation of Officers of the Federal Emergency Management Agency

By the authority vested in me as President under the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America and pursuant to the

Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, I hereby order that:

Section 1. *Order of Succession.*

During any period when both the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (Director) and the Deputy Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (Deputy Director) have died, resigned, or otherwise become unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Director, the following officers of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, in the order listed, shall perform the functions and duties of the office of Director, if they are eligible to act as Director under the provisions of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, until such time as the Director or Deputy Director is able to perform the functions and duties of the office of Director:

General Counsel;

Administrator of the United States Fire Administration;

Assistant Director, Administration and Resource Planning Directorate; and

Regional Director, Region IV.

Sec. 2. *Exceptions.*

(a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 1 in an acting capacity, by virtue of so serving, shall act as Director pursuant to this memorandum.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this memorandum, the President retains discretion, to the extent permitted by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, to depart from this memorandum in designating an acting Director.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 9. An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Memorandum on Designation of Officers of the General Services Administration

March 19, 2002

Memorandum for the Administrator of General Services

Subject: Designation of Officers of the General Services Administration

By the authority vested in me as President under the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America and pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, I hereby order that:

Section 1. *Order of Succession.*

During any period when both the Administrator of General Services (Administrator) and the Deputy Administrator of General Services (Deputy Administrator) have died, resigned, or otherwise become unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Administrator, the following officers of the General Services Administration, in the order listed, shall perform the functions and duties of the office of Administrator, if they are eligible to act as Administrator under the provisions of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, until such time as the Administrator or Deputy Administrator is able to perform the functions and duties of the office of Administrator:

Chief of Staff; Commissioner, Public Buildings Service;

Chief Financial Officer; and

Assistant Regional Administrator, Public Buildings Service, Greater Southwest Region (Fort Worth, Texas).

Sec. 2. *Exceptions.*

(a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 1 in an acting capacity, by virtue of so serving, shall act as Administrator pursuant to this memorandum.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this memorandum, the President retains discretion, to the extent permitted by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345

et seq., to depart from this memorandum in designating an acting Administrator.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 9. An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Memorandum on Designation of Officers of the National Archives and Records Administration

March 19, 2002

Memorandum for the Archivist of the United States

Subject: Designation of Officers of the National Archives and Records Administration

By the authority vested in me as President under the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America and pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, I hereby order that:

Section 1. *Order of Succession.*

During any period when both the Archivist of the United States (Archivist) and the Deputy Archivist of the United States (Deputy Archivist) have died, resigned, or otherwise become unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Archivist, the following officers of the National Archives and Records Administration, in the order listed, shall perform the functions and duties of the office of Archivist, if they are eligible to act as Archivist under the provisions of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, until such time as the Archivist or Deputy Archivist is able to perform the functions and duties of the office of Archivist:

Assistant Archivist for Administrative Services;

Assistant Archivist for Human Resources and Information Services;

Assistant Archivist for Records Services, Washington, D.C.;

Assistant Archivist for Regional Records Services;

Assistant Archivist for Presidential Libraries;

Director, Office of the Federal Register;

Director, National Personnel Records Center; and

Director, Jimmy Carter Library.

Sec. 2. *Exceptions.*

(a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 1 in an acting capacity, by virtue of so serving, shall act as Archivist pursuant to this memorandum.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this memorandum, the President retains discretion, to the extent permitted by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, to depart from this memorandum in designating an acting Archivist.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 9. An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Memorandum on Designation of Officers of the Office of Personnel Management

March 19, 2002

Memorandum for the Director of the Office of Personnel Management

Subject: Designation of Officers of the Office of Personnel Management

By the authority vested in me as President under the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, I hereby order that:

Section 1. *Order of Succession.*

During any period when both the Director of the Office of Personnel Management (Director) and the Deputy Director of the Office of Personnel Management (Deputy Director) have died, resigned, or otherwise become unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Director, the following officers of the Office of Personnel Management, in the order listed, shall perform the functions and duties of the office of Director, if they are eligible to act as Director under the provisions of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, until such time as the Director or Deputy Director is able to perform the functions and duties of the office of Director:

Chief of Staff;
General Counsel;
Associate Director, Retirement and Insurance Service;
Associate Director, Office of Merit Systems Oversight and Effectiveness;
Associate Director, Workforce Compensation and Performance Service;
Associate Director, Employment Service;
Associate Director, Investigations Service;
Director, Office of Executive and Management Development (Charlottesville, Virginia);
Chief, Atlanta Oversight Division, Office of Merit Systems Oversight and Effectiveness; and
Assistant Director for Operations, Investigations Service (Boyers, Pennsylvania).

Sec. 2. *Exceptions.*

(a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 1 in an acting capacity, by virtue of so serving, shall act as Director pursuant to this memorandum.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this memorandum, the President retains discretion, to the extent permitted by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, to depart from this memorandum in designating an acting Director.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 9. An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Memorandum on Designation of Officers of the Social Security Administration

March 19, 2002

Memorandum for the Commissioner of Social Security

Subject: Designation of Officers of the Social Security Administration

By the authority vested in me as President under the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, I hereby order that:

Section 1. *Order of Succession.*

During any period when both the Commissioner of Social Security (Commissioner) and the Deputy Commissioner of Social Security (Deputy Commissioner) have died, resigned, or otherwise become unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Commissioner, the following officers of the Social Security Administration, in the order listed, shall perform the functions and duties of the office of Commissioner, if they are eligible to act as Commissioner under the provisions of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, until such time as the Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner is able to perform the functions and duties of the office of Commissioner:

Chief of Staff;
Deputy Commissioner for Operations; and
Regional Commissioner, Philadelphia.

Sec. 2. *Exceptions.*

(a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 1 in an acting capacity, by virtue of so serving, shall act as Commissioner pursuant to this memorandum.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this memorandum, the President retains discretion, to the extent permitted by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, to depart from this memorandum in designating an acting Commissioner.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 9. An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Remarks in a Tribute to Milton Friedman

May 9, 2002

Well, thank you all very much. It's an honor for me to be here to pay tribute to a hero of freedom, Milton Friedman. He has used a brilliant mind to advance a moral vision: The vision of a society where men and women are free, free to choose, but where government is not as free to override their decisions.

That vision has changed America, and it is changing the world. All of us owe a tremendous debt to this man's towering intellect and his devotion to liberty. So it's my honor to

welcome you all to the White House. Thank you for coming. I'm looking forward to having lunch. [*Laughter*]

I appreciate Larry Lindsey, and I want to thank him for his leadership and his friendship. I, of course, want to welcome Rose Friedman as well. I'm so honored that the Secretary of Defense, Don Rumsfeld, has joined us as well as the Deputy Secretary of Defense, Paul Wolfowitz. I want to thank the Chairman for being here. Chairman Greenspan is a steady influence on our country, and I appreciate your leadership. I want to welcome Dr. Gary Becker, professor at the University of Chicago, who mentored Milton Friedman—[*laughter*]—a Nobel Prize winner. And I want to thank Guity for coming as well. Welcome. And I appreciate Ed Meese being here as well. It's great to see you, General.

Milton Friedman has shown us that when government attempts to substitute its own judgments for the judgments of free people, the results are usually disastrous. In contrast to the free market's invisible hand, which improves the lives of people, the government's invisible foot tramples on people's hopes and destroys their dreams.

He has never claimed that free markets are perfect. Yet he has demonstrated that even an imperfect market produces better results than arrogant experts and grasping bureaucrats. But Milton Friedman does not object to government controls solely because they are ineffective. His deeper objectives flow from a moral framework. He has taught us that a free market system's main justification is its moral strength. Human freedom serves the cause of human dignity. Freedom rewards creativity and work, and you cannot reduce freedom in our economy without reducing freedom in our lives.

As Milton Friedman has written, "I know of no society that has been marked by a large measure of political freedom and that has not also used something comparable to a free market to organize the bulk of economic activity." This viewpoint was once controversial, as was Milton Friedman, himself.

When he began his work, the conventional wisdom held that capitalism's days were numbered. Free market systems were thought to be unsuited to modern problems. Today, we recognize that free markets are the great engines of economic development. They are the source of wealth and the hope of a world weary of poverty and weary of oppression.

We have seen Milton Friedman's ideas at work in Chile, where a group of economists called the "Chicago Boys" brought inflation under control and laid the groundwork for economic success. We have seen them at work in Russia, where the Government recently adopted a 13 percent flat tax with impressive results. We have seen them at work in Sweden, which has adopted personal retirement accounts. We have seen them even at work in China, where the Government conceded long ago that Marxism was, in their words, "no longer suited" to China's problems. These are extraordinary developments. They demonstrate that the rest of the world is finally catching up with Milton Friedman. [*Laughter*]

Yet Milton Friedman has done more than defend freedom as an abstract ideal. He has creatively applied the power of freedom to the problems of our own country, and in the process he has become an influential social reformer.

Milton has shown us how freedom can enhance our national security. He is the intellectual godfather of our all-volunteer army. He argued that America could rely on the dedication of soldiers who serve in armed forces of their own free will, and he was right. We have recently seen the quality and idealism and skill of the all-volunteer army. Those who serve our country by choice are serving it with honor.

Milton Friedman has also shown us how freedom can foster educational reform. For many years, he has been a tireless advocate of school choice as a way of empowering parents and improving the performance of our schools. Educational reform advances when parents have the information and the authority to push for reform. And there is no greater authority than a good alternative. Poor children in America need better options when they're trapped in schools that will not teach and will not change.

In all of these issues and debates, Milton Friedman has argued with consistency and courage and trademark bluntness. His ideas

have influence around the world. And by his strength of conviction, he has served his country with distinction. And it has been recognized as such: After all, he received the 1976 Nobel Prize for Economics, and in 1988 he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

In 1938, Milton Friedman married Rose Director, an outstanding economist in her own right, and the only person known to have ever won an argument with Milton. [*Laughter*] Half a century later, Milton and Rose Friedman published a joint memoir called "Two Lucky People." There's no doubt that Milton and Rose Friedman have been lucky, but not as lucky as America. We're lucky that their parents chose to immigrate from Europe. We're lucky they gave them the love and encouragement they needed to be bold and to succeed. We're lucky that Milton Friedman flunked some of his qualifying exams to become an actuary—[*laughter*]—and became an economist, instead. [*Laughter*] We're thankful for those tough exams—[*laughter*]—but not nearly as thankful as we are for the lives and talents and intellect of Milton and Rose Friedman.

May God bless them both, and welcome.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:37 a.m. in Presidential Hall in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Gary S. Becker, professor of economics and sociology at the University of Chicago, and his wife, Guity; and former Attorney General Edwin Meese.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Congressional Leaders and an Exchange With Reporters

May 9, 2002

Nominations to the Federal Judiciary

The President. I want to thank the Senators for being here today; we're talking about a—judges. We have a vacancy crisis in America. There are too many seats that aren't filled with judges, and therefore, America hurts, America is not getting the justice it needs.

Ours is a system that relies upon an independent court system, and when there is vacancies, the American people suffer. And I call upon the Senate to approve—at least give hearings to people we've sent up to the Senate. There are 30 circuit court vacancies in America, and they've approved 7. This is a bad record, and it's a record that's bad for the country.

Over a year ago I submitted the names of 11 qualified, well-qualified Americans, and the Senate has only dealt on 3 of them. These Senators here bring stories about circuit courts in their own States, in their own districts, that because of vacancies, good, honest Americans aren't getting their hearings. And this isn't right.

For the good of the country, the Senate needs to act and act expeditiously on the nominees I've sent up. It's important that our judiciary be full.

I'll be glad to answer a couple of questions.

Arshad [Arshad Mohammed, Reuters].

Q. Mr. President——

The President. You're second, Sonya [Sonya Ross, Associated Press].

Q. Mr. President, do you think this is just—do you think this is just raw politics on the part of the Democrats?

The President. Well, you can ask the Senators here. But yes, I do. I think it's bad politics. These are well-qualified—you know, they've relied upon the American Bar Association in the past. These nominees have been given well-qualified or qualified ratings. Yes, I think it's raw politics, and I think it's bad for the country.

Sonya.

Afghan Warlord Gulbuddin Hekmatyar

Q. Mr. President, the CIA——

The President. Is this going to have anything to do about judges?

Q. ——launched a missile attack against an Afghan warlord. Is this now U.S. policy——

The President. What was that, again?

Q. Near Kabul, an Afghan warlord survived a missile attack, and this has been acknowledged today by Government officials. I'm trying to—what my question to you is, is whether this is now the policy to pursue with missiles anyone that's—I mean, why are we firing at this man? Is he suspected to be Taliban or Al Qaida?

The President. I can assure you, when we go after individuals in the theater of war, it's because they intend to do some harm to America.

Federal Deficit

Q. Mr. President, last night your budget director said that he had, in his words, grave doubt whether the deficit can be erased by 2004, as your administration previously said that it would be. Does it give you any concern that you might be facing a reelection campaign at a time when the budget would still be in red ink?

The President. Well, first of all, I'm not thinking that far ahead about my election. I am thinking about how to win a war, how to get this country's economy growing, and how to deal with a national emergency. When I ran for office I said the only way we'd have a deficit, as far as I was concerned—if any of those three happened. All three happened.

And I firmly believe that we need to spend what it takes to protect our freedoms, and we're going to do that. We need to make sure our military has got the best equipment, the best training, the best pay possible to win this war. And it's going to take a while to win the war. This isn't a war that's going to end tomorrow. It's a war that is going to require a steady, patient, united country going after people who still want to harm America. It's going to require money to make sure our national security, homeland security is intact.

And in terms of the economy, the economy is beginning to come back but certainly not as strong as I would like. And until the economy comes back as strong as it can, revenues aren't going to be as good as they should be.

Reform of the Palestinian Authority

Q. Mr. President, Israeli officials told me yesterday that you weren't against the idea of moving Yasser Arafat out of a position of power in a reformed Palestinian Authority as long as he was neither hurt nor exiled. Is that an accurate reflection of your opinion?

The President. No, it's not. No, it's not an accurate reflection of what went on in the Oval Office, as the Secretary of State has made clear—who was in the meeting as well.

What is an accurate reflection of my opinion is that Mr. Arafat has let the Palestinian people down. He hasn't led. And as a result, the Palestinians suffer, and my heart breaks for the Palestinian moms and dads who wonder whether or not their children are going to be able to get a good education and whether or not there's going to be a job available for their children.

And one of the things that we did talk about was how to put institutions in place so that a potential Palestinian state can be a peaceful neighbor with Israel—reforms such as making sure there is a single command security force that can be held accountable for arresting terrorists; reforms such as having a kind of economic system that would help promote rule of law and defeat corruption; reform so that if there is ever a rebuilding campaign—which we've expressed an interest in doing and the Europeans have—that the money is actually spent on the projects that we intend them to be spent on. And that's what we did discuss.

Palestinian Authority Arrest of Hamas Terrorists

Q. Do you have any confidence that the Hamas members arrested today, sir, will stay in jail?

The President. We'll have to see. But what I said was—I said I was pleased that Chairman Arafat spoke in Arabic against terrorism. That's good. That's a positive development. Now it's up to Chairman Arafat to perform, to keep them in jail—arrest them, and keep them in jail. In order for there to be peace, there must be—we must rout out terror. And the answer to your question, time will tell.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:25 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on the Terrorist Attack in the Russian Federation's Republic of Dagestan

May 9, 2002

The United States is saddened and angered by the deaths earlier today in an explosion during Victory Day celebrations in the town of Kaspiysk in the Russian Federation's Republic of Dagestan. Of particular concern is that this evil act of terrorism occurred on a holiday when Russia celebrates its World War II victory over fascism and at a time when our nations are allied once again in a war against global terror. Terrorism and the killing of innocents can never be condoned or justified.

On behalf of the American people, I extend my condolences to the families of the innocent children, veterans, and others killed, and I wish a full and fast recovery for those wounded in the incident.

Proclamation 7557—Mother's Day, 2002

May 9, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Mothers are central to the success of the American family. Their love, dedication, and wisdom touch countless lives every day in every community throughout our land. And their love and guidance of children help to develop healthy and spiritually sound families.

President John Quincy Adams once said, "All that I am my mother made me." President Abraham Lincoln believed, "All that I am or hope to be I owe to my angel mother. I remember my mother's prayers and they have always followed me. They have clung to me all my life." These statements are just as true for the millions of Americans who credit their mothers for helping to successfully shape their lives.

Millions of American mothers are at work in communities across the United States, improving the lives of their families and their neighbors through countless acts of thoughtful kindness. They energize, inspire, and effect change in homes, schools, governments, and businesses throughout our country. By their example, mothers teach their children that serving others is the greatest gift they can give.

Nearly 100 years ago, Anna Jarvis of Philadelphia helped establish the first official Mother's Day observance. Her campaign to organize such a holiday began as a remembrance of her late mother, who, in the aftermath of the Civil War, had tried to establish "Mother's Friendship Days" as a way to bring unity and reconciliation to our Nation. In 1910, West Virginia became the first State officially to observe Mother's Day. The idea caught on quickly; for just over a year later, nearly every State in the Union had officially recognized the day. In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson issued the first Mother's Day proclamation, stating that the observance serves as a "public expression of our love and reverence for the mothers of our country."

On this special day and throughout the year, our mothers deserve our greatest respect and deepest appreciation for their love and sacrifice. I especially commend foster mothers for answering my call to service, volunteering their time and their hearts to aid children in need of a mother's love. To honor mothers, the Congress, by a joint resolution approved May 8, 1914, as amended (38 Stat. 770), has designated the second Sunday in May as "Mother's Day" and has requested the President to call for its appropriate observance, which, as the son of a fabulous mother, I am pleased and honored to do again this year.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 12, 2002, as Mother's Day. I encourage all Americans to express their love, respect, and gratitude to mothers everywhere for their remarkable contributions to their children, families, communities, and our Nation.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this ninth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 13, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on May 14.

Remarks at a Reception for Senator Ted Stevens

May 9, 2002

Thank you all very much. I'm honored to be here with the Alaskan of the Century—just wondering which century. [*Laughter*] It's a high tribute to be called the Alaskan of the Century, and he's well on his way for laying the foundations to becoming the Alaskan of this century.

I really am honored to be here with Ted. I appreciate a lot about him. I appreciate he's a straightforward fellow. [*Laughter*] There's no question—[*laughter*]—you know where he stands, in the great Alaskan and, for that matter, the great Texan tradition. There's no—as we say down home, there's no bull about him. And that's good—and that's good. That's good for the Senate; that's good for the people of Alaska; and more importantly, it's good for the United States of America. It is essential that this man be reelected Senator from the State of Alaska. And if all goes well, he'll be the President pro tem of the United States Senate as well.

I want to thank his patient wife, Catherine. We both—the Senator and I both married above ourselves. [*Laughter*] I'm sorry Laura's not here. She's a fan of the Stevenses. She is in New York City—actually, she's in New Haven today helping one of our daughters move out of her dorm room. But she sends her best. Like Ted, I am really proud of my wife. She's done a fabulous job. She's been a great First Lady.

I appreciate Ted's love of his children. When I was in Alaska last, I had the honor of meeting some of Ted's offspring—the State senator I had a chance to meet. And tonight I had a chance to meet Beth as well, and it's great to see you. I'm glad you're here, Beth. Thank you for coming. [*Laughter*]

It's also great to be here with the Governor of the—or at least the next Governor of the State of Alaska, Frank Murkowski. I appreciate Frank's leadership, and I also really appreciate Don Young. He, too, is a straightforward Alaskan who makes a big difference. It's about as fine a congressional delegation as there is. It's 100 percent good. [*Laughter*]

I know there are a lot of Senator Stevens' colleagues here, and I want to thank his fellow Senators for coming. I also appreciate George W. being here, the mayor of Anchorage, George Wuerch. [*Laughter*] Mr. Mayor, you're kind to come down, as are all the folks from Alaska who traveled a long way to be here. It's a great testimony to this good man.

I also want to thank Jimmy Hoffa for being here. It's a big deal for Jimmy to be here, and it shows what kind of leader Ted Stevens is. We were there in line; somebody said, well, you know this guy represent—Jimmy said he represents the greatest generation, and he does. Just this week I had the honor of renaming the Old Executive Office Building for Dwight David Eisenhower. I guess it shall be called the Ike. [*Laughter*] But in the front row was Ted Stevens. Not only had he served in the Eisenhower administration, he also served our Nation as a C–46 and C–47 pilot during that war. This is a man who has paid his dues to his country, a man who loves America, loves what America stands for, and a man who serves ably in the United States Senate.

During a time of threat to the United States, it gives me great comfort to know that up there on Capitol Hill is a person who understands that America must be ready and prepared, that we've got to give our troops the best equipment, the best training, and the best pay. And as the ranking member of the defense appropriations subcommittee, the United States military has got a great friend in Ted Stevens.

As well, I appreciate his understanding that the strategic threats to the United States are changing. And in order to protect our Nation and our friends from blackmail or from the attack by a nation that harbors weapons of mass destruction, this good country must develop a missile defense system. Ted Stevens understands that. It's important to have an advocate for the defenses of the United States and our alliance and what we stand for in the United States Senate. And Ted clearly can see the future, and for that

I'm grateful, and so will the Nation be grateful. Future generations of Americans will be grateful when we finally develop a missile defense system that will protect us and protect our friends from an accidental launch or, more significantly, blackmail at the hands of one of these rogue nations that harbors and develops weapons of mass destruction. So, Mr. Senator, thank you for that as well.

There's a lot of thought up here in Washington about national defense, as there should be. After all, we are at war. And one of my concerns and one of the Senator's concerns is the fact that our Nation relies upon too much energy from nations that sometimes don't like us, that we're dependent on foreign sources of energy. And we don't necessarily have to be that dependent, because we've got vast reserves in the great State of Alaska. And for the good of our national security and for the good of our economic security, we must develop those reserves in an environmentally friendly way, and this man understands that.

Now, there's going to be a lot of issues we're faced with, and one of the reasons I want to make sure that we reelect Ted and take control of the Senate is because I want the good people that I send up as judges to get a fair hearing and to get a timely vote. We have a vacancy crisis in America, and we need a Senate that is able and willing to respond to that vacancy crisis. I want my nominees to be given a fair hearing and an up-or-down vote quickly, for the sake of the United States of America and our judiciary.

I can talk a lot of issues, but there's nothing more important than the security of this country. It's an unimaginable honor to walk in that Oval Office every morning, as you can imagine. By the way, that's after I have gotten the First Lady her coffee—[*laughter*]—and after Spot and Barney and I take a stroll on the South Lawn. Spot was born in the White House during 41's era, and so she's quite familiar with the surroundings, and she's welcome into the Oval Office with me, about 6:50 in the morning. Barney, on the other hand, at the age of 1½, is not allowed on the new carpet. [*Laughter*]

But I walk in there, and I sit at this magnificent desk. Ted Stevens has seen it a lot; he's seen other Presidents use this desk as well. It's a desk that was used by Theodore Roosevelt and Franklin Roosevelt, John Kennedy, Ronald Reagan; a lot of Presidents have used it. Kind of settle in there, and the first thing I look at is a threat assessment to the United States of America; the fact that these killers—and that's all they are, they're nothing but a bunch of coldblooded killers—are interested in hurting America. It's a reminder that my main job—and the truth of the matter, the job of the United States Congress—is to come together, Republicans and Democrats, to unite to make sure that our country is as secure as it can possibly be.

We've got a good homeland defense strategy. We're working on ways to get money into the hands of the first-responders, the brave police, fire, and EMS crews around the country. We've got a bioterrorism initiative. I'm about to sign a new border security initiative that passed the House and the Senate; it's a good piece of legislation. Our law enforcement teams are talking like they've never talked before. You just need to know that any time we get any kind of hint or evidence that somebody may be thinking about doing something to America, we're reacting. We're reacting within the guidelines and confines of the United States Constitution, but we're reacting. We're chasing down every single hint.

But the best way to secure the homeland, the best way to make sure our children can grow up in a safe America, the best way to protect civilization itself is to chase the killers down one by one and bring them to justice. And that's precisely what we're going to do.

I know Ted is just as proud as I am at how our United States military has responded. We sent them into a tough situation in Afghanistan, and they and our friends and allies responded brilliantly. Our military makes us proud. And for those of you who've got relatives in the military, I want to thank you on behalf of a grateful nation. And you make sure you thank your relatives on behalf of Senator Stevens and myself for doing such a fabulous job to defend freedom.

The other thing I'm proud about our military is that not only did they accomplish the first stage in the war against terror, which was upholding the doctrine, if you harbor a terrorist, you're just as guilty as a terrorist.

And we threw out this barbaric regime. But our troops went into Afghanistan not as conquerors, but they went in as liberators. We have liberated people because, you see, this country values the worth of every single individual, regardless of where they live, regardless of their religion. I am so proud of the fact that young girls now go to school for the first time in their lives in Afghanistan, thanks to the mighty United States of America.

The thing I appreciate about Ted Stevens is, he understands that we're in for a long struggle, that—you know, that we don't have a calendar. I don't have a calendar on my desk and he doesn't have one on his desk that says, by such and such a moment we will quit, that we're just going to kind of bail out after a period of time. That's what the enemy wants. But much to their chagrin, that's not what they're going to get. You see, we're relentless, and we're patient. And I've traveled this country a lot, and I can report to you that we are united because this country values our freedom. We value freedom. And anytime anybody threatens that which we hold dear to our heart, freedom, we will respond. We will respond in a smart, deliberate, but plenty tough way.

You know, I cannot imagine—I can't imagine what was going through the minds of the killers when they were plotting the attacks of September the 11th. They must have thought that we were so self-absorbed and so materialistic, so selfish and so weak that all we'd likely do is file a couple of lawsuits. [*Laughter*]

They found out differently, didn't they, Senator? We're not only staying on course there in Afghanistan; we're denying sanctuary anywhere they think they can light. Anytime they try to train, we'll disrupt. Anytime they try to establish a training camp, we'll destroy it. And we're going to hunt them down one by one. There is no cave deep enough to hide from the justice of the United States of America.

Ted Stevens understands that when a nation is called to defend freedom, that we must not blink. He knows that, and I appreciate that very much, because I feel the exact same way. And we've been called to defend freedom. This is our moment in history, and we're not going to let freedom-loving people down.

Out of this evil, I truly believe, is going to come some great good. I believe by remaining tough and resolved, by being well prepared, that we'll achieve peace. And that's my goal. I unleashed our military to achieve peace, peace all around the world. And I believe it's possible; matter of fact, I know it's possible.

And out of the evil done to America is going to come another incredible good, and that is this country is going to rise up with great compassion to solve many of the problems we find all around our country, whether it be in Alaska or Texas or anywhere else. There are pockets of despair and hopelessness in America. And that's not good enough for our country.

People often ask me how they can help in the war against terror. I'll tell you how you can help: You can love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. If you want to join the war on terror, mentor a child. Find somebody who seems lost and put your arm around them and say, "I love you." If you want to join the war against terror, simple acts such as walking across the street and telling a shut-in that you love them—it's part of this collective effort to stand squarely in the face of evil.

You see, it's the common good, it's the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness and decency that define the true character of the face of America. And in turn, we'll say to the evil ones that attacked us, "You will not prevail." Out of this evil will come peace, and out of this evil will come a more compassionate, more decent, more hopeful America.

It is an honor for me to be here with a great man. I want to thank you for helping him get reelected. I'm proud to call him friend. You all are proud to call him Senator. And the Nation is better off for it.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:25 p.m. in the L. Welch Pogue Room at the offices of the Jones, Day, Reavis & Pogue law firm. In his remarks, he referred to Senator Stevens' son, Alaska State Senator Ben Stevens, and daughter, Beth Stevens; and James P. Hoffa, general president, International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

Message to the Senate Transmitting the Protocol Additional to the Agreement Between the United States of America and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the Application of Safeguards in the United States of America

May 9, 2002

To the Senate of the United States:

I submit herewith, for Senate advice and consent to ratification, the Protocol Additional to the Agreement Between the United States of America and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the Application of Safeguards in the United States of America, with annexes, signed at Vienna June 12, 1998 (the "Additional Protocol"). Adhering to the Additional Protocol will bolster U.S. efforts to strengthen nuclear safeguards and promote the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, which is a cornerstone of U.S. foreign and national security policy.

At the end of the Persian Gulf War, the world learned the extent of Iraq's clandestine pursuit of an advanced program to develop nuclear weapons. In order to increase the capability of the International Atomic Energy Agency (the "Agency") to detect such programs, the international community negotiated a Model Additional Protocol (the "Model Protocol") to strengthen the Agency's nuclear safeguards system. The Model Protocol is to be used to amend the existing bilateral safeguards agreements of states with the Agency.

The Model Protocol is a milestone in U.S. efforts to strengthen the safeguards system of the Agency and thereby to reduce the threat posed by clandestine efforts to develop a nuclear weapon capability. By accepting the Model Protocol, states assume new obligations that will provide far greater transparency for their nuclear activities. Specifically, the Model Protocol strengthens safeguards by requiring states to provide broader declarations to the Agency about their nuclear programs and nuclear-related activities and by expanding the access rights of the Agency.

The United States signed the Additional Protocol at Vienna on June 12, 1998. The Additional Protocol is a bilateral treaty that would supplement and amend the Agency verification arrangements under the existing Agreement Between the United States of America and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the Application of Safeguards in the United States of America of November 18, 1977 (the "Voluntary Offer"), which entered into force on December 9, 1980. The Additional Protocol will enter into force when the United States notifies the Agency that the U.S. statutory and constitutional requirements for entry into force have been met.

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (the "NPT") requires non-nuclear-weapon states parties to accept Agency safeguards on their nuclear activities. The United States, as a nuclear-weapon state party to the NPT, is not obligated to accept Agency safeguards on its nuclear activities. Nonetheless, it has been the announced policy of the United States since 1967 to permit the application of Agency safeguards to its nuclear facilities—excluding only those of direct national security significance. The Additional Protocol similarly allows the United States to exclude its application in instances where the United States decides that its application would result in access by the Agency to activities with direct national security significance to the United States or access to locations or information associated with such activities. I am, therefore, confident that the Additional Protocol, given our right to invoke the national security exclusion and to manage access in accordance with established principles for implementing these provisions, can be implemented in a fashion that is fully consistent with U.S. national security.

By submitting itself to the same safeguards on all of its civil nuclear activities that non-nuclear-weapon states parties to the NPT are subject to, the United States intends to demonstrate that adherence to the Model Protocol does not place other countries at a commercial disadvantage. The U.S. signature of the Additional Protocol was an important factor in the decisions of many non-nuclear-weapon states to accept the Model Protocol and provided significant impetus toward their early acceptance. I am satisfied that the provisions of the Additional Protocol, given

our right to manage access in accordance with Article 7 and established implementation principles, will allow the United States to prevent the dissemination of proliferation-sensitive information and protect proprietary or commercially sensitive information.

I also transmit, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State concerning the Additional Protocol, including an article-by-article analysis, a subsidiary arrangement, and a letter the United States has sent to the Agency concerning the Additional Protocol. Additionally, the recommended legislation necessary to implement the Additional Protocol will be submitted separately to the Congress.

I believe that the Additional Protocol is in the best interests of the United States. Our acceptance of this agreement will sustain our longstanding record of voluntary acceptance of nuclear safeguards and greatly strengthen our ability to promote universal adoption of the Model Protocol, a central goal of my nuclear nonproliferation policy. Widespread acceptance of the Protocol will contribute significantly to our nonproliferation objectives as well as strengthen U.S., allied, and international security. I, therefore, urge the Senate to give early and favorable consideration to the Additional Protocol, and to give advice and consent to its ratification.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 9, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 10. An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Remarks at St. Stephen's Community House in Columbus, Ohio

May 10, 2002

Thanks for that warm Columbus, Ohio, welcome. It's nice to be back home—well—[*laughter*]—I say "home" because my grandfather was raised here, Prescott S. Bush, raised right here in Columbus, Ohio.

I want to thank you all for coming. I'm here—I want to talk about welfare today. I want to talk about how we make sure that we continue on the progress that we have made since 1996. Millions of Americans no longer are dependent upon Government, and that's incredibly positive not only for America but, more importantly, for each individual. It brings dignity to someone's life when they're on their own and successful.

The Congress is going to take up a reauthorization, they call it in Washington-speak, of this legislation. And I've got an idea how best to make it work, continue the reforms, and how to make it work better for Americans.

We're really here to talk about the dignity and worth of each individual American. And joining me today is a man who understands that, is my Secretary of Health and Human Services, Tommy Thompson. Tommy was the Governor of Wisconsin, who in 1996 helped lead the Nation in getting a welfare reform bill that helped people but also showed what is possible when you trust local officials, when you give them the flexibility necessary to design a program to meet the needs of the citizens of a community or a State. Tommy did a fabulous job as the Governor of Wisconsin in helping people, and he's doing a great job as the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

I want to thank your Governor. He's a longtime friend of mine. He's a man who, when we look out of Washington—which we need to do a lot of, by the way—and look down at the States, it gives us great comfort to know that Governor Taft would be in a position to help implement and start and encourage the programs necessary to help people, whether it be in education or in helping people become less dependent upon Government. And I want to thank you, Bob, for your service and thank you for your leadership. I'm honored to call you friend, and the people of Ohio are honored to call you Governor.

I want to thank my friend, former Governor, a man with whom Tommy and I served as Governors, who is now the United States Senator from the State of Ohio, George Voinovich. George is traveling with us today. I'm honored that you're here, George.

Deborah Pryce, Pat Tiberi, Bob Ney, David Hobson, and Rob Portman, all members of a fantastic congressional delegation, are with us today as well. I want to thank you all for traveling here today and thank you for your friendship. I want to thank Michael Coleman, the mayor of Columbus, for joining us today. Mr. Mayor, thank you for being here; appreciate you coming. I want to thank the executive director of St. Stephen's Community House for letting us come.

Today, when I landed at the airport, I was greeted by a fellow named Gabe Wilson, who is a high school senior here. He's a fellow that takes time out of his day to help educate younger kids about the dangers of drug use. The reason I welcome Gabe and introduce him is because he understands that America can be better off, one person at a time. I like to put it this way: One person can't do everything, but one person can do something to help. He's a member of the army of the soldiers—he's a soldier in the army of compassion. Where are you, Gabe? Gabe, thank you for coming. [*Applause*]

You know, we've got big challenges ahead of our Nation. Obviously, one of the great challenges is to make sure that we protect our homeland, is to prevent the killers from harming any American, to do everything we can to chase them down and bring them to justice. That's a key priority, obviously, for me and my administration. It's a key priority to make the world peaceful, to seek the peace.

It's probably going to have to be a little tough to get there—have to defend our values, stand up for what we believe, not let people harm us. But we seek the peace. We seek the peace. We work to make the world more secure. But as we do so, we need to make—work hard to make the world better, too, a better place.

The best place to start is here at home. The best place to start is to make sure every child gets educated in America—I mean every child. Got good legislation that we passed. Believe it or not, actually, Republicans and Democrats worked together to get it done. We put aside our political parties and focused on what was right for America. And that's important—that's important.

And we need to do the same thing on helping people who are on welfare. We need to set aside our political parties and focus on what is best for the American people. Let's do what works. Let's make sure that we help people.

So today I do want to talk about welfare reform. We've come to St. Stephen's Community House because it is a living example of flexibility in the welfare law, what it means. It is a living example of what we call a one-stop center, where people who need help are able to come and find help to help themselves. I understand that this is a—kind of a welcoming center for people who are transitioning, a place where people can find all-important job training or childcare or counseling—just the help they need.

I am impressed by the programs that are here in the building and equally impressed by the fact that the county has taken a strong and active role. The United Way has taken an active role. The Catholic Church plays an active role here at St. Stephen's, and so do other individuals and community groups. It's important for there to be a collaborative effort in helping people, and this center recognizes that. It welcomes all the social entrepreneurs who are willing to help.

As we reauthorize the welfare bill, it is essential that we always remember the importance of work in our society, that work helps people achieve the dignity in their lives. If you believe that every person has got value, like I believe, then we ought to help that person find work. It's the cornerstone of the last—one of the cornerstones of the last welfare reform bills that has worked, by the way—it is successful—and it ought to be the cornerstone of the reauthorization. If work made a huge difference in people's lives as a result of the '96 bill, it ought to be a significant part of the reauthorization.

And so Congress must understand the power of work, and we must continue with time limits and high goals and high expectations. Within 5 years, 70 percent of the welfare recipients must work. We're saying, from the time the bill is reauthorized until 5 years later, the goal is that 70 percent of those on welfare, those remaining on welfare, must find a job. Oh, I've heard them complain about that's too high a goal. It's not too high

a goal if it helps a person—that helps a person. If it brings dignity into someone's life, it is not too high a goal.

And we're going to help. That's what St. Stephen's is here for. That's why we've got to have flexibility. We want to help people find the work. Right, Dannetta? I need to let Dannetta get up here and talk. She knows what she's talking about. She said to us, in a meeting we had before, she said the most important thing in the success of the '96 bill was there to be time limits on people being able to stay on welfare, that there be a time certain, so that people get moving.

I not only believe there ought to be time limits; I believe there ought to be strict goals, too—high expectations. The higher the expectations, the more likely it is people are going to succeed.

As part of the 40-hour workweek requirement, of course, we recognize that people need education and vocational help. And so part of meeting the work requirement is to allow for 2 days each week for vocational training and educational training. So in other words, part of the vision is to say, "You'll get work. We want to help you get work, and we recognize the importance of job training and vocational training to help people find the skills necessary to find jobs that actually exist," like they do right here at St. Stephen's.

Now, one of the keys to make sure—now, if we set high goals and high standards and high expectations, we've got to recognize that it's important to give flexibility to States and local authorities to achieve those goals. In order to achieve the expectations, you've got to trust local people. If you don't trust local people, it means everybody in Washington is making the decision. It's not going to work with everybody in Washington making the decision. There needs to be flexibility.

I was struck today on our discussions about the fact that a lot of folks from Somalia have come to Columbus. I met a young lady—there she is—who came from Somalia, who came—barely speak English; she got help. Needed job skills; she got help. She now owns her own business in America, because the program had flexibility to meet her particular needs. And we need to have flexibility—as we call it, the ticket to independence—that gives States the freedom to innovate and to create programs that meet local needs.

Oh, some in Washington don't like that because they want to control everything out of Washington. But if you're interested in helping people, we've got to empower people at the local level to help people in need.

I'll give you an example of some of the roadblocks that Federal regulations create, all the rules, all the fine print, Mr. Mayor, all the thick layers of booklets. The Governor's explained to me this case, and it's interesting. There's a single mom with two daughters here in Ohio. One of the daughters is disabled, and the other daughter is working at—she's 17 years old—to help the family. She's working part time. Because she was 17 years old, her income didn't count in the formula to decide whether or not the family was eligible for food stamps. Guess what happened on her 18th birthday? All of a sudden, her income, because of a rule or regulation, starts to count. Even though the income level of the family didn't increase, they lost their food stamps.

Now, that's not what a compassionate America is all about. When people need help, we need to help them. Now, it's conservative to trust local people, but it's compassionate to provide flexibility so that rules and regulations don't prevent people from getting the help we want them to get. What ought to happen is, the State of Ohio should have the flexibility necessary to allow that young girl and her family to receive food stamps as a transition period to full-time employment. In other words, it ought to be a part of the transition from welfare to work, but that's not the way the food stamp program works.

And I'll tell you what else happens with a system that is too bureaucratic and too focused on rules and regulations. The administrative costs of these programs end up putting money not in the pockets of people we're trying to help, but in—as a result of the bean counters, you know, how do you keep track of what's going on? The more complicated the rules and regulations out of Washington, the more money States have to spend to account for the money.

And I'll give you an example. On the food stamp program here, the State of Ohio spent $192 million administering the program. The

program provides $573 million of benefits. That is a high cost per dollar delivered. It's about 25 percent overhead cost. Now, I'll tell you, a lot of that money—with fewer rules and regulations, a lot of that money would end up going to benefit people. And that's important for the American people to understand. The more regulations there are out of Washington, the more complex the Washington, DC, regulations are, the more likely it is money is not going to end up helping people.

And therefore, for the good of the people we're trying to help, flexibility out of Washington—no-strings-attached type legislation—not only will help people; it'll be more efficient with our taxpayers' money. After all, if you look at the success the TANF program, the Temporary Assistance to Needy Family program, the overhead cost in those programs as a result of the flexibility at the local level is only 10 percent—is only 10 percent. I hope Congress understands that granting States flexibility not only will help people we're trying to help but will make it easier to spend our dollars in a more efficient way.

We had some great success—we met with some great success stories. Josef, where are you? Josef is a man—as a result of flexibility in the program in Dayton, Ohio, Dannetta was able to take some TANF funds and some work assistance funds, and Josef is now becoming a computer expert. Yes, he's going to end up—[*applause*].

One of the important things about the future of our country is to remember some important values. One of the most important values in America is our family values, the importance of family in our country. Now look, I recognize that not every marriage is going to survive; I know that. And I recognize some folks, you know, are just going to find it impossible to stay married, and I know that. But I firmly believe that in order to make the welfare program work, in order to help people, that wherever couples seek help in trying to figure out how to save a marriage, our Government ought to be responsive to that need.

The statistics show that when moms and dads raise a child, when moms and dads stay together, that child is much more likely to succeed. It's an important—it's never to diminish the fact—listen, being a single mom raising a child is the toughest job in America. I know that. But wherever possible, we ought to promote and encourage programs that help save marriage, foster family, encourage families. That ought to be a focus of the welfare reform. We've got money in the budget to do just that.

Today we met with Melvin and Rhonda Tuggle. Where are the Tuggles? There they are. Thank you all for coming. These are folks that had—that had children. They had income, but it was certainly not enough to meet the needs of their three children. The economic struggles put a huge strain on their marriage. They split apart. Thankfully, in the city of Cincinnati, Rhonda sought help, sought a job training program to help her out. But one of the interesting things that she found in the program was the willingness of the folks there to help work to save her marriage.

In other words, you know, in a compartmentalized world, no one ever would have thought to have a marriage counseling be a part of somebody trying to help find a job, but these good people did. They understood the importance of family, the importance of encouraging moms and dads to stay together.

As a result of a social entrepreneur working hard to help save a soul, the Tuggles not only have helped improve themselves by better job training and better jobs, but they received the counseling necessary to encourage them to stay married. They had another child. They're together. Their four children now have a much better future as a result of the decision they made. We must have the courage in America to promote and encourage stable families for the good of our children.

It's also important to help our young children learn to make right choices in life, to help them understand consequences of choices. One of the parts of our welfare reform reauthorization is to promote abstinence, is to be willing as a society—[*applause*]. I've heard all the reasons why we shouldn't. Let me give you a reason why we should: It works every time. [*Laughter*]

And finally, in order to complete our welfare vision, which says we're going to help everybody in America, that every individual

has got worth and dignity, we must not be afraid to rally faith-based programs in America. There's legislation in Washington that will encourage charitable giving, allow nonitemizers to deduct their charitable gifts, which the experts tell me will increase charitable giving immeasurably in America, and that's good. It's important. Part of the legislation, the Faith-Based Initiative which has passed the House and hasn't passed the Senate yet—it needs to get out of the Senate, by the way—is to recognize that our Government should allow faith-based programs to access Federal dollars, to help people in need without causing them to have to lose the heart and soul of their mission.

Government has got to recognize that love and compassion are oftentimes the result of strong faith. In order to help heal broken hearts and save broken lives, we need love and compassion. There are pockets of despair and hopelessness in America that we must be addressing. Money helps, obviously, but it cannot put faith in people's lives, or hope. That requires compassion and decency.

I talk a lot in America about this war on terror, obviously. Part of my job is to educate the American people about how long it's going to take to defend ourselves. And it's going to take a while. But I also tell people, and I truly believe this, that out of the evil done to America can come incredible good. Part of the good is going to be peace. Part of the good is going to be a more compassionate America.

My call to the good folks of Columbus, Ohio, is to become involved in helping a neighbor in need. If you really want to join the war against terror, do some good. People say, "How can I fight the war against terror?" And the answer is, love your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself.

The Faith-Based Initiative relates to welfare that way. Loving a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself is the natural extension of welfare reform. The best way to save some folks from drug and alcohol abuse is to recognize faith can change hearts and therefore change lives. The best way to help a child who may wonder whether or not he or she has a future in America—and there's a lot who wonder that—is to encourage a loving mentor and welcome a loving mentor in their lives. The best way to encourage the homeless to recognize that there—somebody cares, is for a church or a synagogue or a mosque to rally a program to help the homeless.

No, this is a great country, because we're full of great people. The strength of our country is not really in the halls of Government—our system is great; it's magnificent—but the true strength of America lies in the fact that there are millions of Americans who want to help a neighbor in need. The role of the Government is to recognize that power and that goodness of the American people, and structure our welfare laws that welcome and encourage and foster the greatness of the country.

Every American has got dignity. Every American has got value. And we want to make sure our laws welcome that—understand that. This is a welcoming country. And when we get the welfare reauthorization bill right, it's going to be even more welcoming.

Listen, thank you for letting me come and talk to you all. You live in the greatest country in the face of the Earth. May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:52 a.m. in the gymnasium. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Bob Taft of Ohio; Judith Stattmiller, executive director, St. Stephen's Community House; Dannetta Graves, director, Montgomery County Department of Job and Family Services; and Ramla Munye and Josef Pollard, who were both helped by job assistance programs.

Remarks at a Luncheon for Governor Bob Taft in Columbus

May 10, 2002

Thank you very much. Gosh, it's a great Ohio welcome. I'm honored to be back. It's good to be back near the family plot. [*Laughter*] As you may recall, Prescott S. Bush, my grandfather, was raised right here in Columbus, Ohio. Last time I did that, my mother was watching on C–SPAN. She said, "What about my father?" [*Laughter*] I said, "Oh, yes, he was raised in Dayton, Ohio." [*Laughter*] So, Mother, I mentioned him. [*Laughter*]

But it's great to be back in this great State. I'm here to talk about welfare reform, but I'm also here to make sure that the good people of Ohio send this good man back to the Governor's Mansion. There's a lot of reasons to send him back, but none greater than the fact that he married well. [*Laughter*] Hope is doing a great job as the first lady of the State of Ohio.

When we were walking in, Bob was telling me how proud he is of Hope and the job she does, particularly to promote literacy. And I told him, "I'm real proud of my wife, too." I can't tell you how—what a great job Laura is doing. She has brought a lot of calm and a steady hand. You know, when I asked her to marry me, she was a public school librarian who didn't like politics and really didn't like politicians. [*Laughter*] A lot of people are now beginning to realize why I asked her to marry me. She's got a lot of class. A lot of people, however, are wondering why she said yes. [*Laughter*] But I wish she were here. She loves the Tafts. She really appreciates Hope and Bob, and she sends her best to you all.

I'm also traveling with some pretty good company today. I had the honor of flying down on Air Force One with a fabulous United States Senator, George Voinovich. I like George; he's the kind of fellow that tells you what's on his mind. [*Laughter*] There's no doubt what he believes in. One of the things he believes in is Ohio. He loves the State of Ohio.

I'm also honored to be traveling today with members of a great congressional delegation, Deborah Pryce, Dave Hobson, Pat Tiberi, Bob Ney, and Rob Portman. These people not only represent Ohio well; they're friends. And they're people with whom it's a real pleasure to work. They bring a lot of class to the United States Congress.

And earlier today, I had the honor of meeting a fellow named Mike Turner, who won a primary in Dayton, Ohio, who a lot of people think, when he continues to work hard, he's going to be the next Congressman from Dayton. Welcome, Mike.

I also want to thank Jennette Bradley for willingness to run and to join the ticket. I appreciate you, Jennette. It's going to be a historic moment when you become the Lieutenant Governor of the State of Ohio.

It seems like ever since I was—been coming to Ohio to campaign for one Bush or another, Bennett has been around. It's great to see you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate it.

I want to thank Tim and all the folks who organized this event. I want to thank you all for coming to help—to help Bob. You know, when you find a good, honest, decent, honorable person in politics, you need to back him, and this guy is just that. Plus, he's got a great record. He has his priorities straight. His most fundamental priority is to make sure that every child in the State of Ohio gets a good education, and the record is impressive. The record is impressive. Not only has he focused on making the Ohio schools a funding priority; he's focused on insisting that there be excellence in every single schoolroom in Ohio. I appreciate your—Bob, I appreciate your leadership. The people of Ohio have got to understand that he has led on this issue.

And not only that, he and Hope understand that if a child cannot read, a child cannot learn. And it's important to have a Governor set a priority. Not only is public schools a priority, public education a priority, but teaching every child to read is the first priority of making sure there's excellence in every public school in the State of Ohio.

We have just passed historic reform in Washington, DC, education reform. It may be hard for you to believe, but there are, at moments, when Republicans and Democrats come together for the good of the Nation. And this is one of the cases. People from both parties came together and worked on education reform which says that we believe every child can learn in America, not some, not a few, but every child. We set the highest of high standards.

We also say that in return for Federal money—we're going to spend money; Washington is good about spending money—and in return for Federal money, we expect there to be results. In return for Federal money, you, the local folks, must show us whether or not children are learning to read and write and add and subtract. And if they are, we will sing your praises, as a society. But if not, we expect there to be change. It is not right

for there to be children trapped in schools that will not teach and will not change.

High standards, strict accountability, coupled with local control of schools—I believe that the people who care more about the children of Ohio are the citizens of Ohio. And we passed power and flexibility out of Washington, DC, so that good Governors like Bob Taft can chart the path of excellence for every single child who lives in your great State.

Earlier today I had the opportunity to talk about welfare reform. We're getting ready to reauthorize the welfare bill. First of all, it is important for Americans to understand that the welfare reforms of 1996 have been a huge success, a success because the welfare roles are down dramatically, but more importantly, a success because more and more citizens as a result of finding a job now have dignity in their lives.

Knowing that there are Governors like Bob Taft, I can safely say, the best way to make sure we continue with welfare reform is to trust Governors and local authorities to match up programs and needs with people. In other words, the Federal Government must get out of the way, must provide maximum flexibility at the local level, which is precisely what I intend to do.

It is good to know that you have a Governor who's willing to rally the social entrepreneurs all across the State of Ohio to make sure that people are able to get the help we want them to get. Ohio is on the leading edge of welfare reform, thanks to Governor Voinovich and now thanks to Governor Taft.

And I appreciate Bob Taft's understanding the role of Government is not to create wealth. That's not the role of Government. The role of Government is to create an environment in which small-business owners and entrepreneurs have a chance to flourish. His initiative of the Third Frontier Project for the State of Ohio understands that jobs and job creation best take place in the private sector. Governor, you're right on track, and I appreciate your vision for economic vitality. And thankfully to the United States Congress, our economy is better on track.

You may remember when I came to the State of Ohio to campaign, I said, "If you give me a chance to be the President, I'm going to make sure that people get to keep more of their hard-earned dollars." And thankfully, we passed tax relief right at the right time.

Here's what Bob and I know, that if you let people keep their own money—and, by the way, it's not the Government's money. I love to read these stories about, "Well, the Government's money—we can't send the Government's money back." It's not the Government's money; it's the people's money. It's the taxpayers' money. When they have more of their own money, they demand goods and services. And when they demand goods and services, somebody will produce the goods and services. And when somebody produces the goods and services to meet demand, somebody is going to be able to find work. The best way to stimulate our economy was to let the American people keep their own money, so they get to decide what to do with it.

George Voinovich has been a leader in Congress, as have the other members from the congressional delegation, about joining me and the Vice President to make sure this Nation finally wakes up and has a balanced energy policy. You know, we import over 50 percent of our energy, and sometimes the people we import from don't like us. [*Laughter*] For the sake of economic security and for the sake of national security, this Nation needs a comprehensive energy plan that encourages conservation, promotes new technologies that will save energy and enhance renewable sources of energy, but at the same time, a energy plan that has the wisdom to promote clean coal technology, so that we're less dependent on foreign sources of energy.

Oh, there's a lot of issues we face. And you know, we've got issues related to trade. I'm pleased that the Senate looks like they've got an agreement on a trade bill. This Nation ought to be confident. We ought to be opening up markets all around the world to trade. It'll be good for our Ohio farmers to trade; it's good for Ohio small-business people to trade. I hope Congress finally gets a trade promotion authority bill to my desk. Confident nations open up markets; they don't build walls around themselves. I'm confident that we're the best producers and innovators

in many products, and therefore we ought to be selling our products around the world.

I'm also working on issues like terrorism insurance, to encourage construction projects. I know the Senate will join me on that. We've just got to make sure that when we do so, we don't provide a gravy train for personal injury lawyers in America.

Obviously, we've got budget matters. You know, when I was running for President, in Chicago, somebody said, "Would you ever have deficit spending?" I said, "Only if we were at war, or only if we had a recession, only if we had a national emergency." Never did I dream we'd get the trifecta. [*Laughter*] But that's what we got, and we're going to deal with it. And we're going to deal with it in a way that understands that each individual American matters, in a way that promotes jobs not Government. And we're going to deal with it in a way that makes a priority the defense of the United States of America.

I've got a routine that I really enjoy there at the White House. It starts off early in the morning where, like I did at the Governor's Mansion in Texas, I bring Laura her coffee. [*Laughter*] My next job is to take Spot and Barney out for a walk on the South Lawn. Spot was born there at the White House when Mother and Dad were there, so she's used to the accommodations and understands the decorum necessary to go into the Oval Office. [*Laughter*] Barney, on the other hand, is only a year and a half. In that we've got a brand new rug, he's not allowed in. [*Laughter*] So Barney goes off with the gardener, and I go in the Oval Office with the dog, Spot, and sit.

First thing there, sit behind a fantastic desk that many of you may have seen. It's a desk used by Teddy Roosevelt and Franklin Roosevelt and John F. Kennedy, Ronald Reagan, some of the great names that have preceded me to the Presidency. And the first thing I do is I open up a threat assessment. I read about the fact that the coldblooded killers are still after us. And by the way, that's all they are. They're nothing but a bunch of coldblooded killers, and they still want to hurt America.

It's hard for a lot of young to understand why they would want to do so. And the answer is, because we believe in freedom, and they don't. We're a beacon for freedom, and they can't stand that. They cannot stand the thought that America worships freely, that we welcome people of all faiths, Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu; you name it; we welcome. We understand a lot of Americans have no faith at all, and that's okay. They're proud Americans. We know that. They can't stand the thought that there's free and open discourse in America. They hate the thought of a free press. No, they hate our freedoms, and therefore, they're going to continue to try to strike us.

We're doing everything we can. You need to know that our law enforcement officials are communicating a lot better than ever before between the Federal and State and local governments. Any time we get any kind of hint, we're moving. And we're sharing intelligence all around the world. Our coalition is more than just a coalition of military; it's a coalition of our respective treasuries to shut down money. It's a coalition of our intelligence gathering to share information. I mean, we are—we're on full alert in Washington, DC, about anything that might happen. But the best way to make sure that we protect the homeland, the best way for me to do my job is to hunt them down, one by one, and bring them to justice, and that's precisely what the United States of America is going to do.

I have submitted a significant increase in our defense budget for two basic reasons. One, any time we commit our troops into action, they deserve the best equipment and the best training, best possible pay. And by the way, for those of you who have got relatives in the United States military, you can tell them, this Commander in Chief is incredibly proud of how they've conducted themselves. And the second reason why is because we're in this for the long run. There are no calendars, no dates certain as to when this is going to be over, because we're defending freedom. That's what we're defending. No matter how long it takes, we will defend our freedoms and civilization, itself.

Oh, I know there are some saying, "Well, it's got to end by such-and-such," or "What happened here? What happened there?" That's what the enemy wants. What makes them really nervous is when they hear the

fact that our Nation is united and focused and disciplined and patient.

I've traveled the country a lot, and I'm proud to report that's exactly the way Americans think. You see, I'm amazed of what—I try to speculate what went on in the minds of these people when they attacked us. They must have thought we were weak. You know, they must have thought that—this kind of false image of materialism affected their thinking. They thought we were so materialistic, we wouldn't react. They probably thought all we were going to do is maybe file a couple of lawsuits. [*Laughter*] They were watching the wrong TV show. [*Laughter*] They found out that this Nation, when it comes to the defense of our freedom, is plenty tough.

When it comes to the values we hold dear, we will be strong, and we'll be steadfast. And when it comes to enforcing doctrine, when I said, "Either you're with us or against us," they understand. And when I said, "If you're going to harbor one of those terrorists, you're just as guilty as the terrorists," thanks to the United States military, thanks to our coalition, the world now knows what we mean.

The Taliban Government now knows what we mean. We have totally destroyed their training camps. We've disrupted their chain of command. We've got them on the run. And once you get them on the run, the key is to make sure that there's no place to run to. And so our second strategy is to make sure there is no safe haven for these killers. There is no place for them to light. Either you're with us, or you're against us.

And there's going to be a lot of action left. I mean, when you're hunting them down one by one or in small bunches, it's going to take a while. It's just going to take a while, and that's the resolve of my Government and our Government. It doesn't matter how long it takes. See, that's the thing that people have got to understand about America. It just doesn't matter how long it takes, because we love our freedom.

It also matters that there are potential threats that we recognize. This threat bothers me: the idea of a terrorist organization teaming up with a nation that develops and harbors weapons of mass destruction. It bothers me. We cannot let the world's most dangerous regimes threaten us with the world's most dangerous weapons. For the good of our children, for the good of freedom, for the good of civilization itself, this Nation will be deliberate; we'll be patient. But we're not going to allow the world's most dangerous regimes to hold the United States blackmail with the world's most dangerous weapons.

I believe that by being firm and tough and strong, we can achieve peace. It's very important for the moms and dads to tell their children that your Government is interested in peace and freedom. If there's any doubt in your children's mind about what we're doing, remind them that when we sent our troops into Afghanistan, we liberated a country. And for the first time in a long time, young girls got to go to school. While we're chasing down the killers, we're also helping the nation rebuild herself, with medical care and food. This is a compassionate nation, a nation that longs for peace. And I believe by being firm and strong and leading the world, we can achieve peace.

I was pleased to see today that the standoff at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem was resolved peacefully. That's positive news in a troubled region. But you just need to know, in that region and around the world, I visualize a peace so people can live side by side in peace. And our country will continue to work in that direction.

Out of the evil will come good. Out of the evil will come good, not only around the world but here at home as well. People ask me, they say, "Well, Mr. President, what can I do to help in the war against terror?" And my answer is, if you're interested in fighting evil, do some good by loving your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. If you want to help this country, go across the street to a shut-in's house and say, "What can I do to help you?" If you want to be a part of a movement in America that's taking place, mentor a child; go into your church or your synagogue or mosque and rally the good people that show up to worship, to help people in need.

There are pockets of despair in America; there are pockets of hopelessness which can and will be overcome because loving citizens have decided to do something about it. The

great strength of this country is really not our military. It's not the fact that we're, you know, great and rich. It's the fact that our Nation is full of people with decent hearts and loving souls, people who are willing to take time out of their day to help a neighbor in need.

I believe that as a result of the evil done to America, many are taking a hard look at the values in their life. Moms and dads recognize that their most important job is to love their children with all their hearts and all their souls. Many citizens around our country are realizing that, while it's important to make a living, it's also important to serve something greater than yourself, your community. And it's happening. That's why I'm so optimistic that not only will we achieve peace, but we'll show the world the true face of America, a decent face, a hopeful face, a compassionate face.

It is an unimaginable honor to be the President of the greatest country on the face of the Earth. And I'm the man with that honor.

Thank you for coming, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:15 p.m. in the Regency Ballroom at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Hope Taft, wife of Governor Taft; Robert T. Bennett, chairman, Ohio Republican Party; and Tim Timken, finance chairman, Taft-Bradley Campaign. Mike Turner is a candidate for Congress in Ohio's Third Congressional District.

Statement on the End of the Standoff at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem

May 10, 2002

I am pleased by the nonviolent end to the standoff at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. Like the resolution to the situation in Ramallah, the positive result in Bethlehem was achieved through the efforts of a number of individuals and governments. In particular, I appreciate the efforts of personnel at our Embassy in Tel Aviv and our Consulate General in Jerusalem, which were critical to the outcome, and the work of the European Union.

The end of the standoff in Bethlehem is a positive development that removes an obstacle to restoring security cooperation between the parties and should advance the prospects for resuming a political process toward peace. As I said on April 4th, this can only happen if all parties assume their responsibilities for fighting terror and promoting peace.

Proclamation 7558—Peace Officers Memorial Day and Police Week, 2002

May 10, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

In the face of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, our Nation witnessed the remarkable heroism of America's peace officers as they selflessly aided those in need. As the World Trade Center towers burned, dedicated officers rushed into the severely damaged buildings to rescue the injured. Seventy-two peace officers died that day, trying to save others. These supreme sacrifices remind us of the remarkable commitment that our Nation's peace officers have made to preserve our safety and our country's well-being.

In all, 230 law enforcement officers gave their lives in the line of duty last year. The name of each fallen officer has a place of honor on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial wall in Washington, D.C. This monument ensures that the valor of the more than 15,000 law enforcement officers lost since 1794 will never be forgotten.

Peace Officers Memorial Day and Police Week pay tribute to the local, State, and Federal law enforcement officers who serve and protect us with courage and dedication. These observances also remind us of the ongoing need to be vigilant against all forms of crime, especially to acts of extreme violence and terrorism.

Effective law enforcement is a crucial element to maintaining our quality of life; and we must continue to ensure that our police

have the financial, technical, and civil support necessary to carry out their responsibilities. The more than 740,000 sworn law enforcement officers who are our first responders play a critical role in our Nation's safety and security.

Every American should also play a role in making our communities safer. Programs operated through the Citizen Corps, including Neighborhood Watch, Volunteers in Police Service, and the Terrorism Information and Prevention System, offer citizens the opportunity to take a stand against crime. As we observe Peace Officers Memorial Day and Police Week, I encourage all Americans to learn more about ways to fight crime in their communities and to honor the brave individuals who protect our lives and property.

By a joint resolution approved October 1, 1962, as amended, (76 Stat. 676), the Congress has authorized and requested the President to designate May 15 of each year as "Peace Officers Memorial Day" and the week in which it falls as "Police Week," and, by Public Law 103–322, as amended, (36 U.S.C. 136), has directed that the flag be flown at half-staff on Peace Officers Memorial Day.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 15, 2002, as Peace Officers Memorial Day and May 12 through May 18, 2002, as Police Week. I call on Americans to observe these events with appropriate ceremonies and activities. I also call on Governors of the United States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, as well as appropriate officials of all units of government, to direct that the flag be flown at half-staff on Peace Officers Memorial Day. I further encourage all Americans to display the flag at half-staff from their homes on that day.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this tenth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 14, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on May 15.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

May 4

In the morning, at Camp David, MD, the President met with President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain. In the afternoon, he and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

May 5

The President declared a major disaster in Virginia and ordered Federal aid to supplement Commonwealth and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding on April 28–May 3.

The President declared a major disaster in West Virginia and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, flooding, and landslides on May 2 and continuing.

May 6

In the morning, the President traveled to Southfield, MI. In the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC. Later in the afternoon, he met with President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni of Uganda.

The President announced his intention to nominate William Preston Graves, John Roderick Davis, and Patrick Lloyd McCrory to be members of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation.

The President announced his intention to appoint Michele Ridge as a member of the Board of Directors of the Student Loan Marketing Association.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Board of Visitors to the U.S. Air Force Academy: Candace C. de Russy, John E. Kidde, Dionel E. Aviles, and James H. Harless.

The President declared a major disaster in Michigan and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by flooding on April 15 and continuing.

The President declared a major disaster in Missouri and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and tornadoes on April 24–28.

May 7

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Vladimir Putin of Russia to discuss progress on an agreement to reduce offensive nuclear weapons. He then had intelligence and FBI briefings. Also in the morning, he had a telephone conversation with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt to discuss Middle East peace efforts.

In the afternoon, the President met in the Oval Office with Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba of Nepal to discuss U.S. support for democracy in Nepal, regional security issues, and economic and educational cooperation. Also in the afternoon, the President had a telephone conversation with Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia to discuss Middle East peace efforts.

The President announced his designation of the following individuals to represent the United States at the inauguration of President Abel Pacheco de La Espriella of Costa Rica on May 8: Ann M. Veneman, who will lead the delegation; John Danilovich; Otto J. Reich; Roger F. Noriega; Elton Bomer; Mark Langdale; Joseph O'Neill; and H. Douglas Barclay.

The President announced his intention to nominate R. Bruce Matthews and John Edward Mansfield to be members of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.

The President announced his nomination of James Howard Yellen to be Ambassador to Burundi.

The President announced his nomination of John R. Dawson to be Ambassador to Peru.

The President declared a major disaster in Kentucky and ordered Federal aid to supplement Commonwealth and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding on April 27 and continuing.

May 8

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings. He then traveled to Milwaukee, WI, where he went to Clarke Elementary School and visited with students in Carolyn Davis' and Pat Steelman's second and third grade classes. In the afternoon, he traveled to La Crosse, WI, and later returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Ben S. Bernanke and Donald L. Kohn to be members of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

The President announced his intention to nominate Frederick D. Gregory to be Deputy Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

May 9

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa to express his thanks for President Mbeki's leadership in efforts to resolve the political situation in the Congo. He then had intelligence and FBI briefings.

The President announced the laureates of the 2001 National Medals of Science and National Medals of Technology.

May 10

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings. He then traveled to Columbus, OH. In the afternoon, he traveled to Camp David, MD.

The President announced his intention to nominate Robert J. Battista and Peter Schaumber to be members of the National Labor Relations Board.

The President announced his intention to nominate Peter J. Hurtgen to be Director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

The President announced his intention to nominate Douglas L. Flory to be a member of the Farm Credit Administration Board.

The President announced his intention to nominate Gene B. Christy to be Ambassador to Brunei.

The President announced his intention to nominate Barbara Calandra Moore to be Ambassador to Nicaragua.

The President announced his intention to nominate Kristie A. Kenney to be Ambassador to Ecuador.

The President announced his intention to appoint LaSalle Doheny Leffall, Jr., as a member and Chair and Lance Edward Armstrong as a member of the President's Cancer Panel.

The President announced his intention to appoint Dennis Schornack to be a Commissioner of the International Boundary Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council: Tom Bernstein, Joel Geiderman, Alice Kelikian, Mervin G. Morris, Alvin H. Rosenfeld, Ronald Steinhart, Mickey Shapiro, Sheldon G. Adelson, Nechama Tec, Sonia Weitz, and Aldona Zofia Wos.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted May 6

John Roderick Davis,
of Alabama, to be a member of the Board of Trustees of the Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation for a term expiring December 10, 2005, vice E. Gordon Gee, term expired.

John R. Dawson,
of the District of Columbia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Peru.

Steven D. Deatherage,
of Illinois, to be U.S. Marshal for the Central District of Illinois for the term of 4 years, vice Robert Moore, term expired.

Mark W. Everson,
of Texas, to be Deputy Director for Management, Office of Management and Budget, vice Sally Katzen.

William Preston Graves,
of Kansas, to be a member of the Board of Trustees of the Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation for the remainder of the term expiring December 10, 2005, vice Mel Carnahan.

Patrick Lloyd McCrory,
of North Carolina, to be a member of the Board of Trustees of the Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation for a term expiring December 10, 2005, vice Richard C. Hackett, term expired.

Gregory Robert Miller,
of Florida, to be U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Florida for the term of 4 years, vice Patrick Michael Patterson, resigned.

James Howard Yellen,
of Pennsylvania, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Burundi.

Submitted May 8

Anthony Dichio,
of Massachusetts, to be U.S. Marshal for the District of Massachusetts for the term of 4 years, vice Nancy J. McGillivray-Shaffer, term expired.

David McQueen Laney,
of Texas, to be a member of the Reform Board (Amtrak) for a term of 5 years, vice Tommy G. Thompson, resigned.

John Edward Mansfield,
of Virginia, to be a member of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board for a term expiring October 18, 2006 (reappointment).

R. Bruce Matthews,
of New Mexico, to be a member of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board for a term expiring October 18, 2005, vice Joseph DiNunno, resigned.

Withdrawn May 8

Jose Gerardo Troncoso,
of Nevada, to be U.S. Marshal for the District of Nevada for the term of 4 years (reappointment), which was sent to the Senate on April 16, 2002.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released May 5

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Virginia

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to West Virginia

Released May 6

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Michigan

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Missouri

Fact sheet: President Highlights Next Step of Education Reform

Announcement of nomination of U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Florida and U.S. Marshal for the Central District of Illinois

Released May 7

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Kentucky

Released May 8

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on efforts to resolve the political impasse in Madagascar

Statement by the Press Secretary: First Lady To Visit France, Hungary, and the Czech Republic

Announcement of nomination of U.S. Marshal for the District of Massachusetts

Fact sheet: President Highlights Immediate Help for Students in Failing Schools

Released May 9

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit's affirmation of Peter Kirsanow's status as a member of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission

Statement by the Press Secretary on the appointment of James F. Moriarty as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Asian Affairs at the National Security Council

Fact sheet: The President's Call to Action on Judicial Nominees

Released May 10

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Fact sheet: President Calls for Ticket to Independence in Welfare Reform

Announcement: Homeland Security Director To Speak at Candelight Vigil Honoring Fallen Law Enforcement Officers

Acts Approved by the President

Approved May 7

H.R. 861 / Public Law 107–169
To make technical amendments to section 10 of title 9, United States Code

H.R. 4167 / Public Law 107–170
To extend for 8 additional months the period for which chapter 12 of title 11 of the United States Code is reenacted

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